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2. If a person orders his papers discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send them until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XI.—NO. 10. WEEKLY EDITION. JANUARY 17, 1874.

HARRISBURG.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, January 8, 1874.

SENATE.

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, introduced an act providing for the repeal of all laws relating to liens of mechanics and material men that are local in their application.

Mr. White, of Indiana, moved that Senators be sworn to support the new Constitution. Agreed to.

Mr. McSherry administered the oath to Speaker Strang, and he to the other Senators.

At 12:30 the vote was counted on State Treasurer.

The Senate will have a night session to receive veto messages from the Governor.

Edward Milliken has been appointed Secretary to Speaker McCormick.

HOUSE.

The House met at 11 o'clock.

An ineffectual attempt was made to have a general investigation on banks.

The House was divided on the proposition to print five thousand or five hundred copies of the new Constitution, and it was laid over.

Mr. Brockway read a bill regulating the printing of notices for local legislation.

The House refused to adjourn until the Committee on Rules report.

Mr. McCullough, of Berks, presented the usual resolution for the distribution of Purdon's Digest.

Mr. Ammerman, of Montour, offered a resolution granting the use of the hall of the House to the State Grange of the Patrons of Industry.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, January 9, 1874.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Davis, of Philadelphia, offered a resolution for the furnishing of Purdon's digest to Senators. Speaker Strang ruled the resolution out of order.

Mr. Davis read in place the regular bill providing for the purchase of digests. Referred to committee.

The Senate went into Committee of the Whole to consider Mr. McClure's election bill, with Mr. Warfel, of Lancaster, in the chair, when it appeared that nearly every Senator present had an amendment.

At 12 o'clock the Governor appeared before the bar of the Senate, desiring to be sworn, in accordance with the new order of things.

Mr. McClure withdrew his bill, Speaker Strang took the chair, Messrs. Wallace and White escorted the Governor to the front of the Clerk's desk, and, with the Book in his hand, he solmenly took the oath to support the new Constitution.

Immediately after Governor Hartranft retired, the Senate resumed consideration of Mr. McClure's bill. Several amendments will be printed and considered next week.

At 1 o'clock the Senate adjourned until Tuesday evening.

HOUSE.

The House spent the entire morning in the adoption of rules. Much discontent was manifest when it was discovered that the rules required them to sit on Saturday.

Mr. Brockway's bill regulating the publication of applications for local or special legislation is as follows:

SECTION 1. That no local or special bill shall be passed by the Legislature unless notice of the intention to apply therefor shall be published in the locality where the matter or thing to be affected may be situated, which notice shall state specifically the title and objects of the bill, and shall be published in at least two daily or weekly newspapers of different political, printed in the county or counties to be affected by said bill, at least thirty days prior to the introduction of such bill into the General Assembly, and be signed by the parties applying therefor.

Provided, That one publication shall be deemed sufficient where but one newspaper is published in the county or counties affected; and,

Provided, further, That whenever the subject matter of such bill affects more than one county, such publication shall be made in all the counties affected.

SEC. 2. The evidence of the publication aforesaid shall be by attaching a copy thereof to the bill, to be verified by the affidavit of the editor or publisher of due compliance with the preceding section.

REDUCTION OF THE STATE DEBT.

The Sinking Fund Commissioners announce, through Secretary of State Quay, that, in addition to the million and a half of the State debt reduced to the 1st of December, they have agreed to call in all certificates of the 6-10 State loan, due 1875. The amount redeemed under this call will aggregate $750,000.

Speaker McCormick and most of the Allegheny members left for home on the afternoon trains, the House having adjourned till Wednesday.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 7, 1874.

The two Houses met to-day in joint convention to count the vote on the new Constitution. The figures were exactly those published in the COMMERCIAL some weeks since, and showed a majority for the new Constitution of 145,150. The proper certificates were made out and filed with the Governor and Secretary of the Commonwealth; and the Governor immediately issued his proclamation announcing the result, as required by the act of April 11, 1872, which called the Convention to revise the Constitution.

The Legislature has thus recognized the validity of that act and its requirements, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, and by carrying out its provisions has quietly rebuked the attempt which the Constitutional Convention made to set it aside by canvassing and publishing these returns on the 26th of December last.

The Democratic members of the Legislature evidently came here full of the conviction that the Republican party would array itself in its hostility to the new Constitution, and give them the advantage of becoming its champions. The more prominent Democratic members had their speeches all ready for publication, on the subject, which they intended to offer at the proper time in both Houses, and put themselves forward as the exclusive champions of Constitutional reform.

They were accordingly much astonished and chagrined at the prompt action of the joint Republican caucus held on Monday afternoon, which adopted strong resolutions pledging the party to pass all laws necessary to give the new Constitution full force and effect; and the clear and explicit commitals in the same direction in the addresses of Speakers Strang and McCormick upon taking the chair in their respective Houses, added to the dismay of the Democratic demagogues. Mr. Brockway, in the House, on Tuesday, tried hard to get in a speech denouncing the Republicans as enemies of the new Constitution, but he was so promptly set down by an extremely neat and effective little speech from Mr. McCormick that a fancy that experiment will not be repeated in a hurry.

One of the conundrums of the new Constitution which has been puzzling the legal mind is, When does the first election for State Legislature occur—in 1874 or 1875? Good lawyers like Henry M. Phillips, of Philadelphia, say 1875, and other lawyers, equally good, including the Attorney General, say 1874. To the lay mind, after hearing the arguments on both sides, the conundrum grows into one of those perplexing problems that no fellow can find out; but the Democratic members, scenting in it a chance for political capital, were preparing to rush in as the saviors of their country by demanding a decision in favor of an election in 1874. The legal difficulties in the case do not appal them. Here was a chance for a new party cry and they could not afford to lose it. The Republican members, however, after hearing an exhaustive argument on the subject from the Attorney General, came to the conclusion that the preponderating weight of argument was in favor of 1874, and to-day, resolutions to that effect were introduced in the House by Mr. Newmyer, and in the Senate by Mr. Davis, of Philadelphia. Thus the eager Democrats were again headed off, and left to mourn over their bad luck.

It is found, upon examination, that the changes made in the forms of legislation by the Constitution will not necessitate any material change in the rules or order of business in the two Houses. The committees appointed to revise the rules have, so far, found but little difficulty in adapting the old practice to the new. The Committees on Judiciary Local and Divorces will be abolished, but the Judiciary general Committee will be divided, as will the Ways and Means Committee in the House and Finance Committee in the Senate. There will be but one Apportionment Committee in the Senate, but the House has authorized two—one on legislative apportionment and one on judicial districts. With these changes, there will be as many committees as before, although many of them will cease to be of any importance.

The two Houses will meet on Thursday to count the returns for State Treasurer, and as there will then be no business ready for it, will probably adjourn over until next week.

The Pennsylvania road has issued passes to the members of the Legislature, but none, as yet, to the officers, and no passes have been issued by any other railroad. There is consequently no chance to get home, except to those who live on the line of the Pennsylvania road, and there will not be, in consequence, so much eagerness for adjournments.

Mr. McClure's bill to regulate elections, proceeds upon the assumption that municipal elections must be held in February, 1874, and that some law is necessary to regulate them. The Republican Senators have not yet shown their opinion of its provisions; but it will, no doubt, be thoroughly discussed before it comes up on final passage.

The struggle for the petty offices about the Legislature is now over, but it has been very bitter and almost disgusting in its intensity. The disappointed ones go home in a morose and discontented mood, and while the members are glad to escape from the pressure upon them, they are mortified at their inability to get places for all their friends, especially as many of them were deserving and worthy men. It is a thousand pities that personal necessity should be the impelling motive to a scramble so painful to witness. Judging from the number of boys pressed for appointment to the petty place of page, a looker-on might be tempted to conclude that this city contained nothing but Lelpless widows and orphans. SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 8, 1874.

The Message of Governor Hartranft extorts praise from all those who were so short a time since his enemies. The Harrisburg *Patriot* and the Philadelphia *Press* praise him and indorse him, and no one would suppose from reading those papers to-day, that they were only a year ago engaged in traducing and abusing him without stint. In this respect, no one of our public men has been more fortunate than Governor Hartranft. He has lived down the calumnies that were heaped upon him, and the fact that he is now regarded with general favor, is an evidence not only of his own intrinsic worthiness, but of the wisdom of those who insisted, when the fight was made on him, that he should not be sacrificed to the clamors of those who were trying to lie him down.

McClure's election bill has come to grief already. The Democrats are reported as opposed to it, and the outcry from Philadelphia has been very vigorous against it. There is no probability, however, that it will be acted upon very promptly. It did not come up in the Senate to-day, but will probably be reached to-morrow, and discussed. It will then go over until next week.

The Senate Committee on Rules reported to-day, and their report was adopted. The rules are not much changed. Bills are to have a distinguishing whole title, and will then go on the order regularly. The second reading of a bill takes place in Committee of the Whole, and then will be the stage in which it will be tried on its merits. When it passes to the third reading the discussion upon it will be mainly over, and the final reading will simply be a constitutional formality. The Finance, Judiciary, Railroad, and Corporation Committees are increased to seven each, the Committee on Apportionment increased to nine, a new Committee on Municipal Affairs created, the Committees on Divorces, Claims, Roads and Bridges, and Estates and Escheats are abolished, and a new committee of fifteen, on Constitutional Reform, created. This committee is to be sub-divided into five sub-committees of three each, and the chairmen of these five sub-committees will constitute a revisory committee. All bills intended to carry the new Constitution into effect are to be referred this committee of fifteen, and will be by it referred to the proper sub-committee, to be reported back to the revisory committee of five, which will report it finally to the Senate.

Abundant provision is thus made for carrying the new Constitution into effect. The work, at first, will be slow, but as soon as the committees get organized, the task of preparing the necessary legislation will go rapidly forward.

The programme of work for the session has already been indicated in the report of a committee appointed for that purpose by the caucus of the Republican members of the two Houses. This report has been adopted by the caucus, and it may, therefore, be regarded as a definite exposition of what will be done. It is as follows:

The committee report that they have carefully examined the new Constitution, to discover the duties imposed therein upon the present Legislature. It requires but a casual glance to find that there is a peremptory direction and immediate necessity for legislation upon the following subjects:

1. Prescribing the number, duties and compensation of officers and employees of the Legislature.

2. For supplying stationery, public printing, paper and fuel, binding and distributing the laws, journals and public documents, furnishing and preparing the legislative halls.

3. Apportioning the State into Senatorial and Representative districts.

4. Fixing the salary and mileage of members of the Legislature for special and regular sessions.

5. Fixing the salary of county officers in counties of more than 150,000 population.

6. Regulating the accounting by county, borough and township officers for moneys.

7. Regulating the conduct of elections and the registration of voters.

8. For trials of the elections of presidential electors, members of the Legislature and other public officers.

9. Defining the necessary and proper expenses incident to the nomination and election of electors, Representatives, State, judicial and county officers.

10. Defining the offense of corrupt solicitation of members of the Legislature or public officers, and the practice thereof, and prescribing the punishment.

11. Designating the several judicial districts of the Commonwealth.

12. Providing for Orphans' Courts in counties of more than 150,000 population.

13. For incorporation and organization of telegraph companies.

14. For the organization of railroad companies, the construction of railroads, and enforcing the several provisions of the seventeenth article of the new Constitution, entitled "Railroads and Canals."

15. Fixing the salaries of the Judges of the Supreme Court, and of the Judges of the several judicial districts.

16. Designating the amount of the necessary reserve for current expenses of government and the manner of securing and keeping this reserve.

There are other subjects which should be provided for during the present session of the Legislature or all practicable. Without some proper general provision relating to them, some confusion and annoyance may result to the business and interests of the people and the Commonwealth. Among these subjects are the following:

Regulating the changes of venue in criminal and civil cases.

For the granting of divorces in cases not already provided for by law.

Additions to and modifications of the laws for the regulation of the boroughs, cities, townships, wards, districts, boroughs or school districts.

For the incorporation of ferries, bridges, and such other corporations as are not already provided for.

For the location and changing of county seats.

For the organization and regulation of banks and banking.

Declaring what offices are incompatible.

Defining particularly the duties of the Secretary of Internal Affairs.

Prescribing the manner of issuing the writ of quo warranto against officers, judicial and otherwise, whose jurisdiction does not extend over the whole State.

Regulating the terms of and the manner of election for city, ward, borough and township officers.

The House adopted, by an almost unanimous vote, a resolution declaring that, in its judgment, the first election for the Legislature, under the new Constitution, takes place in 1874. This seems to be the general impression here, notwithstanding the differing judgment of eminent jurists; and, so far as legislative opinion goes, the question may be considered as settled. The only drawback to the decision is that Newlin and Buckalew both hold the same opinion, and that is provocative of doubt.

At this time last year we were suffering all the rigors of an Arctic winter. We are now enduring an unseasonable spell of spring weather. The thermometer ranges from 50 to 70 every day, and rain falls from time to time for a week, coming round through mud and water, as we are compelled to do, we may properly exclaim, with Martin Van Buren, "Our sufferings is intolerable."

SPECIAL.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, January 9, 1874.

McClure got his election bill up to-day, and passed it through the Committee of the Whole, where he amended and modified it materially. The first section was struck out entirely, and the provision authorizing the court to remove election officers at pleasure. The bill, so amended, was reported back, and goes over on the orders until Tuesday night, to which time the Senate stands adjourned.

The first section was struck out because it re-enacted existing laws, without reciting the provisions thus re-enacted, and this was precisely one of the things most distinctly forbidden by the new Constitution.

It is somewhat remarkable that the only two acts of legislation yet attempted came from Messrs. White and McClure, friends and supporters of the new Constitution, and both of them, as introduced, were in direct violation of that instrument. Mr. White's effort consisted of an attempt to authorize the purchase of supplies for the Legislature by the clerks, through the agency of a concurrent resolution, when the Constitution says distinctly that all resolutions requiring the assent of the two Houses shall go to the Governor and be signed by him the same as a bill. A concurrent resolution, under the old order of things, did not need the Governor's signature, and *Harry evidently forgot* that he had passed from under the sway of the old to a new and different dispensation.

Of course, no one supposes that either of these gentlemen did this with their eyes open; but the fact that they each blundered so palpably, at the very start, shows how strong are old habits, and how hard it is to take in, all at once, the full effect of a sudden change. Indeed, every one is feeling just now, to tread gingerly and carefully, for fear of going wrong; and it will be some time before the bearings are correctly obtained.

The Governor to-day took the oath, in the open Senate, to support the new Constitution, the oath being administered by the Speaker. The Senate did the same yesterday, and all State officers, civil and judicial, are required to take the same oath within thirty days after the Constitution goes into effect. As justices of the peace are "judicial officers," the Attorney General rules that they are required to take and subscribe the oath before the recorder of their county. The Squires had better look to it.

One of the difficulties arising under the new Constitution is, how to dispose of contested elections. There are four contested election cases on hand; but as no petitions have been presented, there being a grave doubt as to the proper course of proceeding.

In the Senate, Nagle wants to contest Lawson's seat; Wagoneller wants to put out Dill; and in the House, there is a contest for three seats from Luzerne county, and one from Northumberland.

Under the old Constitution, each House was declared to be the judge of the qualifications of its members; but contested elections were to be tried and *determined* by a committee to be drawn as provided by law. Under the new Constitution, each House is made the judge of the *election*, as well as qualification of its members, and the provision about determining contested elections by a committee is left out. It is plain, therefore, that contested elections cannot be tried under the plan prescribed in the election law of 1839; and the question is, how *shall* they be tried? There is a second provision in the Constitution, that contested elections shall be tried before a court; but as each House is distinctly declared to be the judge of the "election and qualifications of its members," it is not probable that either House will agree to surrender a privilege of so much value. The only method, apparently, that is open for immediate use, is to refer all petitions to a committee in each House, appointed for that purpose in the usual way.

The general election law of Mr. McClure does not, from all present appearances, meet with much favor. Mr. Playford said very truly to-day that the registry law of 1869 was infinitely preferable to it; and as that law contains a section declaring that it shall not apply to Philadelphia, the repeal of that section would extend that act all over the State.

The plan of Mr. McClure, to turn the courts into Boards of Return Judges to count election returns, and to give them almost unlimited power over election boards, both in their appointment and in regulating them, is one of the dangerous tendencies of our State legislation. Whenever we succeed in conferring legislative and executive powers upon the judiciary, including the appointing power, we shall have succeeded in building up a most dangerous agency. So long as the courts are constituted as now there may be no actual danger, but the concentration of so much power in judicial hands will naturally turn the attention of politicians to the judiciary as a stronghold to be captured and used for their own purposes.

For one, I am content with the old idea of government—the people the source and the repository of all power, and the government confined to its natural channels—the legislative, executive and judicial. Each of these three divisions of the power conferred by the people should be kept as distinct as possible, and each be kept exclusively to its legitimate sphere. The legislative should not encroach upon the other two, nor should it be permitted to shoulder off its responsibilities upon either. Most particularly should the judiciary be left exclusively to the work of interpreting the laws; and all attempts to force upon our judges work which does not belong to them should be frustrated.

I protest, also, against the theory upon which Mr. McClure's bill seems to be prepared, to wit: that the people cannot be trusted, and that they must be hedged around with restrictions to keep them from cheating. This is not, I know, the avowed purpose of the bill, and I will be told, probably, that it is to prevent fraud, and all that; but the idea that underlies it and runs through it is that of distrust of the people. No man who believes in the honesty of the masses would ever think of compassing them about with so many precautions and hindrances.

And now, while my hand is in, I may as well add that the people had better speak out if they do not want an act to pass that puts into the hands of a few troublesome men in each election district the power to annoy and worry every voter in it. By the bill as originally framed, no registered voter could vote, if his vote were challenged, unless two qualified voters of the district could be found to swear for him. By challenging the first voter that offered, and all others that came up to vouch for him or for them, a challenger could prevent any one from voting, for if the qualifications of *all* the voters in a district were challenged, there would be no qualified vouchers left. Mr. McClure consented to yield this point so far as to require only *one* voucher; but this thing of putting almost unlimited power into a challenger's hands, is not only dangerous to liberty, but will be sure to provoke violence, if permitted to go into operation. The Constitution points out the qualifications of a voter, and does not require the voter to produce a voucher for his possession of them. To require him to produce such a voucher on the demand of any impudent scoundrel who may post himself at a polling window as a challenger, and to say that he shall not vote unless he proves his right, is to require more than the Constitution demands. The burden of proof is thrown upon the voter, instead of upon the challenger, where it properly belongs, and the people will be down upon such nonsense, if it is ever put into practical operation.

SPECIAL.

CHEAP TRANSPORTATION.

Meeting of Western and Southern Congressmen in Washington—Interchange of Views—Heavy Appropriations for Canal and River Improvement Demanded.

WASHINGTON, January 10.—A number of members of the House of Representatives met to-night in the room of the Judiciary Committee in pursuance of a call numerously signed, to take into consideration the subject of cheap transportation. Representative Donovan, of Iowa, was called to the chair, and Representatives Barrere, of Illinois, and Hereford, of West Virginia, were appointed Secretaries.

Representative Holman alluded to the fact that during the last Congress appropriations for rivers and harbors exceeded a little over five million dollars, and it was currently reported that an effort would be made to reduce them this session to three millions. What was to be the policy of Congress on the subject of cheap transportation, was a matter of great moment. If appropriations are reduced they might be applied to a few specific objects where money would be spent for the benefit of the people at large.

Representative Hurlbut, a member of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, said he came here to receive information. There were before that committee projects involving the expenditure of one hundred and thirty million dollars. He was a friend to all such works. While many of these projects were local or sectional, some of them were national. Although in the section where he lived there was no immediate connection with the Mississippi river, yet that river was important to the agricultural interests of Illinois at large, and he, therefore, was in favor of the Fort Wayne Illinois canal. The improvement of the great lakes and the means of making navigation accessible to the sea, were second to none of the other schemes mentioned. For closing improvements, which included the deepening of the St. Claire flats and the Niagara canal. Then there was also a project for a canal across New York to divert to the ocean the vast commerce which now sought an outlet through the St. Lawrence. Another scheme was the opening of the Tennessee river through various channels, to afford southern roads to the Atlantic, so as to reach Georgia or South Carolina. There were other schemes of like nature and importance. The cry of the West was for some immediate action in the matter of canals to relieve them from endangerment from the overflow of the productions of the Mississippi valley. There was growing up a well-founded complaint, that the appropriations which had been going on for ten years, and had extended to other States. A sub-committee had reported to the general committee a bill, which would be considered, and when agreed upon by the board with a view to reduce the exorbitant rates now charged by railroads. He thought the committee would endorse this bill and report it next week. He thought that Congress could act upon this subject under the power to regulate commerce between the States, and gave his views in favor of a freight railroad 1,300 miles long, allowing the great advantages which would result, both to the producer and the Eastern consumer, while the road itself would be a source of great profit. He could prove that, with an enterprise of this character there would be such reduction of transportation rates as would enable us to successfully compete in European markets with the products of the basket of the Red and Mediterranean. A proposition to construct a double track road from some point on the Hudson to Council Bluffs, with branches to St. Louis and Chicago, had been made, but the people will look to the United States to guarantee the payment of interest on certain of there bonds. He hoped in the course of a week to prepare a bill embodying in it a pledge of the credit of the United States, with such guards and guarantees as would prevent the occurrence of such imposition by railroads as those to which they were now subject.

Representative Bensel said that instead of voting to reduce, he should vote to increase appropriations for rivers and harbors.

Representative McKee explained, that while there was much talk about retrenchment, all that all resolutions requiring the assent of the two Houses shall go to the Governor and be signed by him the same as a bill. A concurrent resolution, under the old order of things, did not need the Governor's signature, and *Harry evidently forgot* that he had passed from under the sway of the old to a new and different dispensation.

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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 8, 1874.

Mr. Cushing Ready to Leave.

It is arranged that Caleb Cushing will sail for Madrid on the 24th of the present month. To-day Mr. Cushing visited the Supreme Court and withdrew the cases represented by him. Mr. Cushing states that the members of the present government of Spain are entirely unknown to him. Serrano, he says, was a young officer in the army when he was in Spain forty years ago. At that time Mr. Cushing traveled over that country on horseback, and upon his return to the United States, in 1833, he published his

Reminiscences of Spain,

which still have a wonderful applicability to the Spanish nation. Of his acquaintances still living, the most prominent is the veteran General Aespatero, who concluded the war between Isabella and the Carlists. He now resides at Rograno, far advanced in years. It was proposed at one time to place him at the head of the government, but the General declined. Mr. Cushing says that the treaty of 1795 will not apply to the Virginius prisoners. He will not receive his instructions for some days.

Mr. Williams's Declination.

The sudden withdrawal of Williams's name was effected as follows: During the visit of the President to the capitol, several days ago, he stated the embarrassment in which he was placed by his promise not to withdraw Mr. Williams's name, except with his wish. It was then determined that two of the Senators present should call on Mr. Fish, the senior member of the Cabinet and inform him of the impossibility of confirming Mr. Williams, and request him to so inform Mr. Williams. This he did, and, finding his case hopeless, the Attorney General wrote his letter asking the President to withdraw his name.

Morton for Chief Justice.

Information from trustworthy sources indicates that the name of Senator Morton will be sent to the Senate as Chief Justice.

San Domingo and Cuba.

The President stated to a Democratic Congressman two days ago, that he thought they made a mistake in opposing his San Domingo project. That island lies east of Cuba, and if it had been taken, Cuba would have come naturally. He believed that the effort would yet be made to get Cuba, and therefore he advocated any idea of a reduction of the naval appropriation, for it was the navy which would have to determine the matter.

Subsidies to Railroads.

The following is the text of a resolution introduced by Mr. Luttrell, of California, looking to a prosecution of transcontinental railroads for accrued and accruing interest:

WHEREAS, The several railroad companies hereinafter named have received from the United States, by authority of the act of Congress of July 1, 1862, and the several acts amendatory thereof, money subsidies to aid in the construction of their several roads, as follows, viz: To the Central Pacific, $25,885,120; to the Kansas Pacific, $6,303,000; to the Union Pacific, $27,236,512; to the Central Branch Union Pacific, $1,600,000; to the Western Pacific, $1,970,560; and to the Sioux City and Pacific, $1,628,320, making a grand total of $64,623,512; and the said several railroad companies have agreed to pay back said advances, together with the interest due upon said bonds to secure the repayment and interest:

AND WHEREAS, The said railroad companies have heretofore refused and omitted, and still do refuse, to pay to the United States the interest accruing on its loans, and the several acts amendatory thereof, money heretofore accruing, or any part thereof;

AND WHEREAS, The United States will make advancement on the subject of the creation of an international commission to lay down ocean roadways and tracks in and out between the United States and Europe. The object of this measure is to prevent collisions at sea, and it is proposed to introduce a bill requesting the President of the United States to invite the maritime powers to join in the movement. The appointment of an American commission is also provided for. The same commission have under their charge the finest chart in the same source on the use of electric lights on steam vessels.

Kelley's Bond Bill and Resolution.

The House Committee on Banking and Currency will report Kelley's convertible bond question. It is understood that they stand three for and eight against it. The resolution of the same gentleman, introduced a week ago, came up to-day, but the House refused to suspend the rules and receive the resolution.

Chances of Mr. Cushing.

The Republican Senators will hold another caucus to-morrow, and among the subjects to be taken up will be the case of Mr. Cushing. It is said that the majority of the Republican Senators are opposed to him, the decree of the caucus would insure his rejection.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 8, 1874.

NOMINATIONS OF WILLIAMS AND BRISTOW WITHDRAWN.

A message to the Senate, withdrawing the nomination of Geo. H. Williams to the Chief Justice, states that it is done at his own request. Mr. Williams remains in office as Attorney General. It will be remembered that Mr. Bristow for that position is, in another brief message, consequently withdrawn.

LETTER OF ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAMS TO THE PRESIDENT.

The following is the letter of Attorney General Williams, requesting the withdrawal of his name to the office of Chief Justice:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, January 7, 1874.

To the President:

SIR: You were kind enough, without my solicitation, or any knowledge on my part that you contemplated such a thing, to nominate me for the office of the Supreme Court of the United States. Since that time, the docket of that court has been hopelessly and when opened upon me. My abilities have been disparaged and my integrity sought to be assailed to such an extent that a public opinion adverse to my appointment has been created which might hereafter embarrass your administration and perhaps impair the usefulness of the bench. With the perfect consciousness that I have performed with clean hands and upright purpose all the duties of the various public offices in which I have been called, and trusting to time and a just public opinion to vindicate me, I have determined respectfully ask you to withdraw from the Senate my nomination for Chief Justice.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

(Signed.) GEO. H. WILLIAMS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 12, 1874.

THE TEXAS ELECTION—DISPATCH FROM THE PRESIDENT.

The following dispatch was this morning sent to Governor Davis by the President:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, January 12, 1874.

To Governor Davis, Austin, Texas:

Your dispatches and letters, reciting the action of the Supreme Court of Texas in declaring the late election unconstitutional, and asking the use of troops to prevent apprehended violence, are received. The call is not made in accordance with the Constitution of the United States and acts of Congress under it, and cannot therefore be granted. The act of the Legislature of Texas, providing for the recent election, having received your approval, and both political parties having made nominations, and having conducted a political campaign under its provisions, would it not be prudent, as well as just, to yield to the verdict of the people as expressed by their ballots?

[Signed] U. S. GRANT.

COLUMBUS.

Inauguration of Governor Allen.

Imposing Parade and Ceremonies.

Inaugural of the Governor.

Ball, Levee and Serenades.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

COLUMBUS, O., January 12, 1874.

The ceremonies attendant upon the inauguration of Governor Allen to-day was, perhaps, the most imposing affair that ever took place in the capital of Ohio. There have been larger crowds in the city before, but never was there one where so much care had been taken to organize and drill all the constituent parts into service, and to make the whole a pageant such as is

PAID TO ROYALTY

on its visits to loyal subjects. The Democracy have not had a Governor for twenty years, and thinking that their millenium had at last come along, set about to celebrate its arrival in the most hearty manner. The city was early astir, with sounds of a half dozen bands of music that had just arrived on the streets. Public buildings, private residences, business houses, hotels, and other buildings were decorated with flags, and the streets bore their holiday appearance. During the night several military companies had arrived, and the boys now off duty were to be seen in the morning, their bright uniforms and accoutrements, with swords, epaulette and gold lace, making a pleasant contrast with the others in the throng. Many ladies, most of them strangers in the city, were to be seen driving around, anxious to see the sights before the show commenced.

Last night the Sill Guards, of Chillicothe, and "Squad A," from the same place, arrived by the Hocking Valley Railroad, and were quartered in one of the halls. At ten o'clock this morning, the Cleveland Greys, numbering about sixty men, and having with them their famous cornet band, arrived by the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati Railroad. At twelve the Lytle Greys and the Cincinnati Light Guards arrived, accompanied by a squad of the Dayton Zouaves. By this time a dozen or more cornet bands, a score of civic organizations and a tremendous throng of civilians were to be seen on the principal streets and in the Capitol grounds, making a scene of confusion almost indescribable.

THE PROCESSION.

The procession was formed at one o'clock at the corner of High and Broad streets, in the following order:

1. The Metropolitan Police.
2. Chief Marshal, with military escort.
3. The Jackson Guard, composed of old men who voted for Governor Allen twenty or thirty years ago. It was headed by the Holmes County Cornet Band.
4. Joint committees of the Legislature and citizens' committee.
5. Military companies, civic societies and citizens on foot.
6. Citizens in carriages.

Thus arranged, and commanded by a score of marshals on horseback, the procession set out to the residence of Governor Noyes. On arriving there the Governor and the Governor elect, and the Lieutenant Governor elect took their seats in a carriage drawn by four horses, and the procession moved back to the west front of the capitol, when the military was formed in line and the occupants of the carriage stepped out and with the Jackson Guards marched through the open ranks up the steps.

THE INAUGURATION CEREMONIES

took place on the east terrace of the capitol.

After prayer by Rev. E. L. Rexford, Governor Noyes introduced Mr. Allen as follows:

My Fellow-citizens—I have the honor to introduce to you a gentleman who has been prominent in the country's history, and now called by the sovereign voice of the people to preside over the destinies of our State—the Hon. William Allen, Governor of Ohio.

Then the oath of office was administered to Mr. Allen by Chief Justice White, of the Supreme Court. After this the Governor elect spoke as follows:

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

The events of October have made it my duty to appear before you, for the purpose of pressing to take the oath prescribed to the Chief Executive officer of the State.

I have taken the oath, and shall earnestly seek to perform the promises it exacts.

At the opening of your session, my predecessor, in his annual message, submitted to you a general statement of the condition of the various executive departments of the government. He likewise made such suggestions as seemed to him necessary and proper.

If at any time during your session, the public interests require it, I will communicate with you, and I will submit to you some additional suggestions in the form of a special message.

The Constitutional Convention, now in session, will no doubt complete its important labors and submit the result for ratification by the people during the current year.

Should such ratification be obtained, your next session will be one of extraordinary labor, as you will then be required to revise the whole body of the statutes of the State, and to provide for the modifications, adopted those laws to the requirements of the new Constitution.

For these reasons, you may deem it unnecessary to alter in any very material particulars, the existing laws, at your present session.

But there are some legislative acts which will, I believe, attract your immediate attention. These are the acts by which the elections are held and registrations made. Even if you were now convened under ordinary circumstances, you would, I believe, feel it to be your duty to revise existing laws and appropriations; for it is evident to all men that the elections and registries of certain counties in some years past been much beyond the actual and rational necessities of the public service.

But, gentlemen, you are not now convened under ordinary circumstances.

A few months since, that undefinable but tremendous power, called a money panic, imparted a violent shock to the whole industrial and property system of the country.

The well-considered plans and calculations of all men engaged in active business, or the exertion of active labor, were suddenly and thoroughly deranged, in the universal business anarchy that ensued, the minds of men became unsettled and perplexed, so that few among them were able distinctly to see their way, or know what to do or what to avoid. Even the ablest men were liable to err in such a time. All values and all incomes were instantly and greatly reduced. Not only the capitalist and the manufacturer, a merchant, a mechanic, or laborer, who did not feel that he was receiving his just wages, but the taxpayer, also, felt that he had been before. The distressful effect of the panic was felt more by no class than by the poor, because it touched them at the vital point of subsistence. Many were rendered unable to find that regular and remunerative employment so essential to their well-being, while some of them, especially in the large towns and cities, would have suffered for the want of the nutriment upon which the continuance of life depends, but for that prompt humanity and charity so characteristic of, and so honorable to the whole American people.

It is in the midst of this condition of things that you are now convened; and it is manifestly the duty of the Legislature of the State to take such action as will relieve the constitutional power to afford, by the reduction of the public burdens in proportion to the reduced ability of the people to pay.

Yet this cannot be done without at the same time reducing the expenses of the State government down to the very last dollar compatible with the maintenance of the State government, and with the efficient working of the State government, under the ever present sense of necessary economy. I do not mean that vague and mere verbal economy which public men are so ready to profess with regard to public expenditures—I mean that earnest, practical economy which proclaims its existence by accomplished facts.

In the prodigality of the past, you will find abundant room for practicing the true economy.

I close these brief observations by returning my thanks to the people of the State, for that expression of their good will and pleasure which brings me before you.

I thank you, gentlemen of the General Assembly, and our fellow-citizens here convened, for the respectful attention with which I have been heard; and I thank my predecessor for the courtesy and urbanity which he has extended towards me since my arrival in this city; when, for the first time, I had the pleasure of making his personal acquaintance.

Governor Allen's address was delivered slowly and with evident embarrassment, caused by being unaccustomed to committing a speech to memory and delivering it afterwards. At its conclusion there was protracted cheering, and a lond call for Noyes. The retiring Governor declined to respond, saying gracefully that the people were accustomed to pay obeisance to the rising rather than to the setting sun. The two Governors, the retiring and incoming, left the stand arm in arm, as they had come, and proceeded to the Executive office, where they held a levee for two hours, a throng passing constantly through to pay their respects to both.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR HART

was sworn into office in the Senate chamber, in presence of the Senate. The State officers, consisting of the Attorney General, State Treasurer, and members of Public Works, took the oath of office in their respective offices. In the evening the delegation from Cincinnati serenaded Hon. George H. Pendleton and Senator Thurman at the Niel House, and Governor Noyes at his residence.

THE INAUGURATION BALL

in the City Hall was quite a

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1874.

POLITICIANS generally think only of the next election; statesmen think partly of the next generation. The latter are mainly solicitous to steer; the former, as a class, are content to merely drift. Most of our Congressmen seem to be politicians.

ONE plank of the platform of the new Labor party, just organized at Chicago, demands compulsory education. When the laborer *is* educated, what will become of the influence of such demagogues as are foremost in all the labor movements and parties of the present day?

LATE English papers contain an account of a supersensitive official in that country who recently leaped out of a window, with fatal results, because somebody had suspected him of dishonesty. If our own public functionaries were to act on the same principle, it is doubtful whether, a month hence, there would be a single Congressional back-payster left to tell the story of the grab.

POPE PIUS, in a letter to a Brazilian Bishop, conveys to Roman Catholic members of the order of Free Masons the intelligence that they are in danger of eternal damnation, and that there is but one way for them to escape. They can only avert perdition, it appears from the Papal letter, by promptly paying up their dues and withdrawing from their lodges. This, to be successful as a means of salvation, must be done within a year from the date of the Pope's epistle. But, then, the Pope didn't date his letter.

JUSTICE carries a sharp sword out in Persia. Sometime ago a certain official of the Empire, one YUSSUFF, who had been educated in Europe, where perhaps, he had occasionally fallen in with a strolling American politician, and thus imbibed lax notions—embezzled some funds that had been contributed for the relief of the famine-stricken people, whereupon he was promptly decapitated. Should the time ever arrive when a like summary method of squaring accounts with defaulters shall obtain here, what immense caravans of ghosts will be found wandering uneasily about the shades, with their heads under their arms.

CONGRESS has at length made the important discovery that one cannot eat his cake and have it, too; that it could not keep its ill-gotten salary increase, and secure its re-election. The grab law has been repealed; and now, let us hope, the people have seen the last of these miserable exhibitions of duplicity and greediness on the part of their representatives. We give Congress no credit for its action in repealing the grab. It was by no means the result of a spontaneous desire for restitution, or of noble compunction for wrong-doing. Members did not seem to fear their own consciences; they feared only the sovereign voice of the people. But this, at least, has made itself heard and heeded. Now let the guilty ones go, and sin no more.

ACCORDING to the December report of the American Silk Association, just published, our native silk manufactures are increasing at a rapid rate, despite the falling in the last few months. During the fiscal year ending July 1, 1873, the imports of raw silk were $7,032,711, against $5,993,828 in 1872, $4,942,447 in 1871, and $2,528,953 in 1870. The figures for 1874 (from July to December, 1873,) are $2,599,562, which, for the year, would give only $5,199,124; but with the improvement taking place in other branches of trade, there is no doubt that the raw silk imports will show a considerable increase within the next six months. The falling off in the importation of manufactured silk goods during the past year amounted to $8,258,427.

PROPOSITIONS for the further amendment of the United States Constitution are pouring in upon Congress by the score. Not to be out of fashion, we have our own little suggestion to make—as follows: that the member of Congress, in either House, who shall have three times delivered himself of false or trivial remarks concerning the government of the country, and the changes which ought to be made in the same, shall be ineligible for re-election for the next ensuing term. Ages ago a similar plan prevailed in India, with—according to the philosopher ZIMMERMAN—results of the most satisfactory character; and it is quite certain that our own country suffers far more from the *cocoethes loquendi* of its representatives, than did ever the poetic region of the total strand.

THE Commissioner of Patents has very properly, on the final hearing of the case, refused the application of these patentees for an extension of their patent for making the finer classes of straw paper. The case, which has been under consideration for a long time, has excited much interest among paper manufacturers, publishers and others, owing to the fact that it was claimed the patent was broad enough to cover the entire economical and valuable portion of the process for reducing wood, straw, &c., into pulp suitable for paper by the use of caustic alkali under pressure, and that, therefore, all manufacturers of such paper must continue to pay tribute to the owners of the patent. These owners have amassed large fortunes from their invention; but not content with this, they have, with incessant importunity, kept on urging further extension of their monopoly, for two or three years past. The decision of the Commissioner will give general satisfaction.

COMPARATIVELY few people, to-day, can go back, in their political recollections, to 1840; but those who can will be able to recall the fact that CALEB CUSHING was then a violent Whig, and as such was elected to Congress from Massachusetts, and that, soon after HARRISON'S death, he rattled to TYLER, and thence passed naturally into the Democratic party. He was denounced, in open Congress, as the "venal advocate" of TYLER'S vetoes, and never defended himself from the accusation.

What he was, Man, he is yet. He had as keen a scent for tracking out which was to be the dominant party as a hound upon the track of the game he is pursuing; and in all the mutations of politics in this country he has always managed to turn up on the winning side. The Whigs, in 1843, regarded him as a political JUDAS; and their judgment of him was not far astray.

That such a weathercock should be thought worthy of the Chief Justiceship is one of the inexplicable things of the time. In 1860 he was at Charleston marshaling the Democratic forces for JEFFERSON DAVIS; yet he turns up quite naturally at Washington as the friend of the government under LINCOLN, and just as naturally he gravitated to ANDY JOHNSON, when that old cheat became the head of the government. He resisted the reconstruction measures, in the interest of his clients, until those measures became popular, and then he took fees on the other side. He gave the strongest possible pro-slavery decisions when he was Attorney General; but he has been prepared, at any time since slavery was abolished, to reverse and overrule them. Those Republican Senators who fear to confirm him because he might be tempted, for consistency's sake, to declare the reconstruction measures unconstitutional, need not dread any such result as following from his love of consistency. He does not know what consistency is, and he will not offend the constitutional convictions of the Republican party, *so long as it remains in power*. Longer than that it would not be safe to guarantee his legal views. Whatever happens, he will always be on the strong side.

We have no interest at stake in this matter, but that which every citizen should feel in seeing the Supreme bench of the nation preserved unsullied from the taint of such a man's presence. The man who was denounced thirty years ago as a "venal advocate," and who was then despised by all and respected by none, is not the man to take JOHN MARSHALL'S place. A turncoat and a trimmer, all his life, he can add neither reputation nor dignity to the Supreme Court. As DANIEL WEBSTER said when General TAYLOR was nominated for President, this was "a nomination not to be made." No reasoning can justify it, and it is sad to think that it has become possible to make it.

The readers of the "Biglow papers" will readily recall LOWELL'S poem, called out by the declaration of Hon. JOHN P. ROBINSON, one of the Massachusetts politicians of thirty years ago, that he intended to support General CUSHING for some office he was then running for. The "General C." of the following verses is the identical gentleman named by General GRANT for Chief Justice:

"He's ben on all sides that give places or pelf;
But consistency still was a part of his plan—
He's ben true to *one* party,—an' then 'a himself;
So John P.
Robinson he
Sez he shall vote for General C.

General C. he goes in fer the war;
He don't vally principle more'n an old cud;
Wut did God make us raytional creeturs fer,
But glory an' gunpowder, plunder an' blood?
So John P.
Robinson he
Sez he shall vote for General C."

"The Mexican war.

CHIEF JUSTICE CUSHING.

It is quite needless to say that the nomination of MR. CALEB CUSHING to the Chief Justiceship of the United States, announced in another column, will be favorably received by the Bar and the people. To some his somewhat advanced age may seem an objection, Mr. CUSHING being in his seventy-fourth year. But he is still in the full vigor of physical and mental health, and is probably still good for ten or fifteen years of judicial service. Unlike Mr. CHASE, when appointed Chief Justice, who found excessive labor necessary to recover or acquire the legal learning indispensable in the performance of his judicial functions, Mr. CUSHING'S habits of study and prolonged practice in the Supreme Court enable him to enter upon his work fully equipped for its high requirements, and no extraordinary demands will be made upon his time and energies. Some of the best and most memorable judicial service the world has owed to men over eighty. Such facts may be called to mind in justification of Mr. CUSHING'S appointment, and one may still regret that the President has not seen fit to nominate some one of the several lawyers equally eminent in their profession and somewhat less advanced in age, whose names have been mentioned in connection with the great office.

It is perhaps just as well that Mr. CUSHING does not go to Spain. The CASTELAR government having been overthrown, there is not much reason to anticipate that even Mr. CUSHING could render very important service either to his own country or to Spain, under the conditions likely to prevail there for a considerable time to come. Indeed, it has been known all along that Mr. CUSHING counted upon the maintenance of the CASTELAR rule when he agreed to accept the Spanish mission.

A Prosperous State.

[From the Baltimore American.]

Sixteen months ago General John F. Hartranft was the "best abused" man in Pennsylvania. He was then a candidate for the office of Governor, and the opposition pretended to regard him as a very monster of iniquity. The New York *Tribune* repeatedly called him a "thief," and the lesser organs of the "Liberals" added a dozen more opprobrious epithets. There was no stain upon his public record, no specific charge of malfeasance in office could be brought against him; but he was known to be the friend of Senator Cameron who desired his election, and he was, therefore, called a creature of the "Ring" and credited with all the crimes which a corrupt man could possibly commit. In connection with Treasurer Mackey he was charged with squandering the funds of the State, and depositing the public money where he knew it would be stolen, with the understanding that he was to receive a portion of the plunder from the thieves. The fact that Pennsylvania lost no money, and that the securities owned by the State were safe in the vaults of the Treasurer's office, was not taken into account. There was a determination to brand General Hartranft as a "thief," although there was no allegation that anything had been stolen, and no attempt to prove a loss of property.

General Hartranft was elected Governor of Pennsylvania, and if the almost unprecedented majority which he received was not deemed a conclusive vindication, certainly the exhibit which he makes of the finances of the State, in his message to the Legislature, ought to silence his calumniators for all time to come. During the year 1873, $1,504,672 of the debt of the State was paid off, and there was a balance in the treasury of $1,825,151. The total disbursements for ordinary expenses amounted to $3,666,325. The interest paid on loans amounted to $1,353,029 29. The aggregate of the funded debt of the State is $25,599,934, but there are bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company to the amount of $5,700,000, and bonds of the Allegheny Valley Railroad to the amount of $3,500,000 in the sinking fund, which reduces the State debt to $14,773,670.

In Pennsylvania there is no tax for State purposes levied upon real estate. The whole income is derived from taxes on corporations and licenses. Owing to the repeal of certain taxes which bear heavily on the industrial interests of the State, and the damage inflicted by the panic, Governor HARTRANFT estimates the falling off in the revenue during the present year at $1,500,000, as compared with last year. He is of the opinion that there will be the same reduction in the year 1875, although the expenses of the State will be largely increased, owing to the additional outlay for schools, the salaries of judges, and the pay of members of the Legislature provided for in the new Constitution. In view of this apprehended deficiency, it might be supposed that Governor Hartranft would ask for an increase of taxation; he does not. He proposes to meet the deficiency by making a corresponding reduction in current expenses.

It would afford the taxpayers of the city of Baltimore a great deal of pleasure to read a report from our Commissioners of Finance concerning our sinking fund that would bear some resemblance to the statement made by Governor HARTRANFT concerning the sinking fund of the Pennsylvania State Treasury. The Legislature in 1858 created a sinking fund for the payment of the interest on the State debt, and for an annual reduction of the principal in a sum not less than $250,000 per annum. In addition to the securities designated by the amendment, the revenue arising from certain taxes was assigned to this fund. From that time, each succeeding year, the interest on the debt has been punctually paid, and the portion of principal redeemed instead of amounting to $250,000 has grown to the immense sum of one to two million dollars per year. The revenues set apart for the sinking fund, by the natural growth of these special taxes, have become annually much larger, while the amount required to be paid on account of interest, by reason of the rapid decrease of the public debt, has every year become smaller, and in this way the annual credits to the sinking fund have swollen to proportions never contemplated by the original friends of measure. The revenues flowing to this fund for the past year over half the entire income of the State, or $3,500,000, while only $1,500,000 were needed to pay the interest on the debt.

Interest Law Statistics.

The following tabulated statement of the interest laws of the various States of the Union will be found useful for reference:

States.	Legal rate of interest.	Rate of contract interest.
Virginia	6	12
Pennsylvania	6	No contract.
North Carolina	6	6
Massachusetts	6	Unlimited.
New York	7	None.
Maryland	6	None.
South Carolina	7	Unlimited.
Connecticut	6	Unlimited.
New Jersey	6	.....
New Hampshire	6	.....
Maine	6	Unlimited.
Vermont	6	.....
Georgia	7	Unlimited.
Kentucky	6	10
Rhode Island	6	Unlimited.
Delaware	6	.....
Tennessee	6	10
Ohio	6	8
Louisiana	5	8
Mississippi	6	Unlimited.
Alabama	8	10
Indiana	6	10
Missouri	6	10
Illinois	6	10
Michigan	7	10
Arkansas	6	Unlimited.
Florida	8	Unlimited.
Texas	8	Unlimited.
Iowa	6	10
Wisconsin	7	10
California	7	Unlimited.
Oregon	10	12
Minnesota	7	12
Kansas	6	12
Nebraska	10	12
Nevada	10	Unlimited.
West Virginia	6	6

Those States which are marked with an asterisk have a usury law.

Wages in New York.

Newspaper reporters and others who have made a business of investigating the condition of the laboring classes in various American cities since the panic, are surprised to find that the ruinous depreciation of wages that were expected has not thus far, at least, been even approximately realized. There may be more idle men than usual, but such as have work get good pay for it. The following carefully compiled table shows the comparative prices of labor in New York city on the 1st of the present month and the same date in 1873:

	1873.	1874.
Bricklayers	$6 per day	$4.
Stone masons	$4 per day	$3 50 and $4.
Tailors	By piece	Slight reduc.
Machinists	$3 per day	Same.
Painters (eight hours)	$2 50 per d	$3 50 per day.
Longshoremen (skilled)	40c per hour	Same.
Longshoremen (unskilled)	18c per hour	25c per hour.
Ship caulkers	$3 per day	Same.
Ship carpins (navy yard)	$4 25 per d	$3 75 per day.
Cabinet makers	$4 per day	Same.
Printers (day work)	$22 per week	Same.
Printers (night work)	$24 per week	Same.
Printers, newspaper, piece work	45@55 cts per 1,000 ems	Same.
Laborers (dock)	$2 per day	Same.
Laborers (public works)	$1 75 per d	Same.
Laborers (parks)	$1 75 per d	Same.

A Golden Dream.

It is hinted in army circles in England that the expedition to be sent out to Ashantee will in all probability return laden with "loot"—with treasures of gold plundered from the unlucky savages who have called down upon their devoted heads the wrath of the British lion. All the information the English have about these rumored treasures seems to be gathered from the report of an agent sent to Coomassie in 1817 as an envoy, who gave glowing reports of bracelets so heavy that the laden arms of the chiefs had to be supported by attendants; pages of gold and silver carried in every direction; of chairs inlaid with ivory and gold; of death-dealing muskets adorned with rims of gold; of full dress costumes and breast-plates of solid gold, etc. Those golden accounts of the agent are now eagerly accepted by the English soldiers and sailors who are engaged in the Ashantee expedition. Thus the trinkets of the barbarian are coveted by those who pretend to be civilized and who thus show that they have the same gross instincts of the savages.

THE *American Agriculturist*, a monthly journal for the farm, the garden and the household, is one of the best publications of its class in this country. From small beginnings in 1842, it has grown gradually but surely in popular favor, until now its readers are numbered by the hundred thousand. It is a large quarto of forty-four pages, filled with practical, common-sense articles on subjects of direct interest to the agriculturist, the topics treated being made still plainer to the reader by handsome engravings on wood. Two editions are printed, one in English and one in German. The annual subscription terms are very reasonable, as follows: Single copy, $1 50 each; four copies for $5; ten copies for $12; twenty copies and upward, $1 each. A handsome chromo called "Up for Repairs," after a painting by our former fellow townsman, Mr. B. F. Rinehart, executed expressly for the *American Agriculturist*, will be given to each subscriber. Circulars giving all desired information may be had by addressing Orange Judd Company, No. 245 Broadway, New York.

It is now proposed to abolish all recruiting stations, by which an immediate saving of between two and three hundred thousand dollars will be effected, and a future saving of some millions.

SPHINX.

BY RICHARD REALF.

Well: If it be true, as you assert,
That this is a land for the white man's rule,
And not for "niggers"—does that import
That God is the white man's foe?

Two peoples? The hammers and heats of war
Have forged and fused, like welded links,
The fates of the twain in one: We are
For you, the riddle of Sphinx.

And you must solve us—unless, again,
Over the burning mart of woe,
Where never faileth the healing rain,
Hell-dragged you want to go.

When the scythes of slaughter swunz in blood,
And fair, green fields of men were mown,
Did not our black veins dapple the sod
As crimsonly as your own?

But not for this do we look in your face,
White man, and ask, with hungry eyes,
My brother! give us a little space
To work in under the skies:—

We are not mendicants: we are—Souls!
The Soul that thrilled in Shakspeare, and
Lit Lincoln's lips with living coals,
Thrills us here, where we stand.

We try to use our wings, and fly;
We try to use our limbs, and run;
Do you hold mortmain over the sky—
Over the Earth, and Sun?

Your apples are of Hesperides:
You give us apples of Tantalus:
But what if the Lord should blight your trees,
And mock you—As you mock us?

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Cushing has too many brains for his small allowance of conscience.

And now Andrew Johnson is scattering hay seed in his hair.

Some months ago we predicted that Marshal Bazaine would be made "the scape-goat" of France; and now all the Paris correspondents of the American press say he has been. Still we are not proud.

An immense throng of Americans are at Naples, in expectation of the Vesuvius expectorations.

The facile *Herald* is the only New York paper which unequivocally indorses the nomination of the facile Cushing for Chief Justice.

Don't talk to us any more about retribution in this world! A sewing machine agent has just inherited three million dollars from a Scotch uncle.

A writer who has been wrestling with the matrimonial problem, thinks that he has discovered a solution. He proposes an equalization of the sexes by means of the aided emigration of surplus women to new settlements where there is a preponderance of males.

The degradation of the "lecture field" may be measured by the fact that an adventurer who personated a lord of Cape May last summer, actually finds committees who engage him to describe his career.

The latest Kansas rumor is, that the Pomeroy-York $7,000 are counterfeits; and the observation is: "somebody tampered."

The Virginia papers call Washington their "Gretna Green," because of the numerous couples who go there from that State to commit matrimony.

Recent experiments show that water which remains over night in lead pipes contains one tenth of a grain of lead to the gallon. Always let the pipes run a short time before using it.

The new bridge now being constructed over the Hudson river at Poughkeepsie, will effect a saving of one hundred miles of railroad travel in 318, on the main route from the coal mines of our own State to the markets of New England.

For once fashion and physicians are in harmony: warm winter jackets, woolen and fur wraps of various kinds, flannels, and thick, stout boots are *en regle* among the belles of the *haut ton*.

The section of the Indiana liquor law which enacted that a person convicted of intoxication should tell where he got his liquor, has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the State.

The cost of educating a cadet at West Point is just eight thousand dollars, or two thousand dollars for each of the four years of the course.

The stockholders of the Western Union Telegraph Company demand that the company shall divide its surplus of fifty per cent. on the outstanding stock of the $33,778,175. The whole of this large surplus has arisen from the net earnings of the company, under the implied assurance that at the proper time, in some form, it should be divided among the stockholders.

Only three ports in the British Empire have more shipping than St. John—Liverpool, London and Glasgow. Its shipping is now 285,000 tons. During the past year the addition was about 40,000 tons, of the value of one and a half million of dollars.

The coolie trade is about to be suppressed in its stronghold, Maco; at least the Portuguese, who control that Chinese island, have promised to put an end to the infamous traffic there.

The Cincinnati papers are at it again, shovel and tongs. The *Commercial's* incessant musketry and the *Enquirer's* sharp fusilade are varied by the occasional heavy broadsides of the *Gazette*.

In only seven States, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania did the postal receipts last year yield a surplus.

The King of Sweden has ordered a collection to be taken on a fixed day throughout his kingdom for the benefit of the Emanuel Lutheran church in Chicago.

A substantial library of medical jurisprudence is to be founded in New York city, under the auspices of the Medico-Legal Society.

The iron mines of New Jersey yielded last year 670,000 tons of ore, of which 150,000 were manufactured into pig iron. The value of the product is about $3,000,000. In 1867 the product of the mines was only 300,000 tons.

According to the last published figures, the number of grangers is 751,125. They exist in every State except Delaware, and the number of Granges is 10,015.

The book trade is slowly recovering from the paralysis of the last six months, and new publishing enterprises are once more ventured upon, though with caution.

Minnesota is going to offer a reward of $25,000 to any one who shall invent a machine capable of converting the crude bog peat of that State into a good merchantable fuel in compact or adhesive dry blocks, or in some form available for transportation and handling, at a cost of say $1 50 per ton.

PERSONAL.

In recommending Prof. Coppee as Agassiz's successor in the Smithsonian regency, Congressman Randall, of this State, said: "He was a professor in the university in which I was partly educated." It was very candid in Mr. Randall to confess that he is only partly educated, but he certainly doesn't speak very well for his instructors.

This from the London *Court Journal*: "The Americans are displaying our shame and their own 'cuteness in the ears of the American ladies. The Alabama English sovereigns are being worn as jewelry."

Up to the present time Genet has been seen in nineteen different countries and on two seas since he left New York. Intelligence of his presence in China and Japan is hourly expected.

Although Mark Twain made a great hit in England at first, people are getting a little sick of him now.

At the concert in the Royal Albert hall, London, which followed the laying of the corner-stone of the national training school for music, to which we recently referred, Miss Antoinette Sterling, the well-beloved American contralto, was one of the soloists, and sung "The Three Ravens," and in response to an "enthusiastic encore," "The Three Fishers." Miss Sterling has won a great triumph before the English public.

The "Shakers" of Mount Lebanon, New York, want more men, women and children among them. Here is their advertisement: "Wanted—Men, women and children can find a comfortable home for life, where want never comes, with the Shakers, by embracing the true faith and living pure lives. Particulars can be learned by writing The Shakers, Mt. Lebanon, New York."

For several months a paragraph has been going the rounds of the press, setting forth with great particularity that General John C. Fremont has for years been a silent and heroic victim to a certain cancerous affection of the stomach, and that his physicians having assured him that he could not survive the year 1874, he had at last made known his unhappy condition to his family and friends. In a private letter addressed to an eminent citizen of Philadelphia by Mrs. Jesse Benton Fremont, she declares that the story is without the slightest foundation, that the health of the General is excellent, and that he is quiet and laboriously attending to his business affairs as usual.

Mr. Frank Simmons, the sculptor, has returned from Rome on a brief visit to his home in Maine.

It is currently reported in Nauvoo, Illinois, that Jo Smith, son of the founder of the Mormon church, will move his printing material from Plano, Illinois, to Nauvoo, within a short time, and there commence the publication of a paper devoted to the interests of the dissenting faction of the Mormon church, which refuses to recognize Brigham Young's authority, and follows the leadership of the son of the Prophet.

Mr. E. Loper ran away with a young lady from Pimpleville, Connecticut, last week. What could you expect from a man of that name, anyhow?

STATE NEWS.

Philadelphia is to have a "grand national dog show."

A muskrat trapper of Montgomery county of forty years' experience, reports the animals plentier this year than at any corresponding period during his life. He has captured one hundred and fifty-four this season.

The assessments for water rents in Philadelphia, this year, amount to $981,727, an increase of $57,668 over 1873.

The steward of the Franklin county almshouse has been arrested for beating a man aged eighty years.

Some months ago the six-year-old son of a wealthy Philadelphian threw a small hammer at a servant girl, striking her in the face and destroying one eye. She has brought suit against the father to recover $10,000 damages, and the case is now on trial before Judge Sharswood, in the Court of Nisi Prius, with distinguished counsel on both sides.

The Athletic base ball club of Philadelphia are going to Europe, next June on a professional tour. They will be accompanied by the Red Stockings, of Boston.

It is stated by the Annapolis *Republican* that the United States government has sold or is about to sell the property on the banks of the Schuylkill river, Philadelphia, which for many years past has been used as a home and hospital for aged and infirm sailors, and erect a suitable building at Annapolis, Md., for the same purpose.

Following is a list of aged persons who died in Philadelphia last week, as recorded in the obituary columns of the *Ledger*: Susan Kerr, aged 80; Elizabeth Rose, 81; Michael Sentman, 83; Olive W. Bacon, 84; Eleanor Gown, 85; Mary S. Miller, 87; Rebecca Hendricks, 89; Catharine Brown, 90; Catherine Sloan, 90; Bridget Malone, 90; James Mitchell, 90; Chas. Ruoff, 92, and Rose Ann Lawlor, 94.

The two negroes who murdered Benjamin Behm, at Colebrook, Dauphin county, a short time ago, will be tried at the next session of court at Harrisburg.

The nailers' strike at Birdsboro has been compromised.

By a collision of buggies in Lehigh county, a young lady had an eye knocked out.

Charles Bradlaugh and Fred. Douglass are going to lecture in Scranton.

Mr. Samuel Ball, of Shenandoah, who is in his ninety-eighth year, enjoying excellent health, has four children, thirty-three grandchildren, and thirteen great-grand-children. Mr. Ball lives in a cellar by contract, recently.

Practical jokers in Lancaster remove coal grates in the sidewalks at night, and unwary persons who pop through or break a leg, complain about it.

In Clark's valley, Dauphin county, six miles from the Schuylkill boundary, fifty-four deer have been shot this season.

The Lancaster and Reading Narrow-gauge Railroad is to be leased to the Philadelphia and Reading Company.

In connection with the coal trade and a movement favorable to the Mauch Chunk *Gazette* of Saturday says "the iron trade has shown a marked improvement during the past two days. Prices have improved two or three dollars and the demand is good."

A couple of drunken white men hung a colored man to a lamp-post in Lancaster, Sunday night, because he refused to answer impertinent questions put by them. He was cut down in time to save his life, being almost strangled. The matter is to be investigated.

To be a Philadelphia lawyer a good English education will hereafter be necessary, since by a new joint rule of the District Court and Court of Common Pleas, no person can be hereafter registered as a student of law until he shall have undergone an examination in all the branches of a good English education, and filed with the Prothonotary a certificate signed by the examiners that he is sufficiently qualified to commence the study of the law.

Chester county farmers are plowing corn.

Jackson, of the *Daily Sand-Pump*, Millerstown, is called "the boss newspaper extinguisher of the oil region."

The Presbyterians and Methodists of Petroleum Center are holding union revival meetings, with excellent results.

Small-pox has made its appearance in Allentown.

Downingtown is to have a wheel factory. The capital has all been taken.

A gang of desperadoes have their headquarters in a cave near Phœnixville.

A pow-wow woman at Nazareth, Lehigh county, bled a lady patient week before last, and couldn't stop the blood, when she thought it necessary. A physician was called in, who stopped the bleeding by closing the clotted blood in the artery. A second physician cleaned out the clotted blood, but it was too late, and the woman died.

Two bodies, of unknown men, have been found in the canal at Harrisburg within three days.

It is reported that the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company has declined to accept a lease of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad on the terms proposed by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Five persons committed suicide in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, last year.

The *Journal* doubts if there are over fifty cases of small-pox in Pittsburgh.

Reading has a larger number of building and savings associations than any other city in Pennsylvania except Philadelphia.

The rolling mill of Waterman & Beaver, Danville, is again in operation.

Two young men in Sunbury were sent to the Eastern Penitentiary for fifteen months, for stealing a turkey.

On the first of January Mr. and Mrs. Brobst, of Catawissa, celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage. This couple are aged respectively eighty-one and seventy-nine years, and have lived a life of happiness enjoyed by few. Mr. Brobst went to Catawissa in 1795, he being then two years of age, and with one exception is the oldest inhabitant.

Another fine deposit of iron ore has been discovered on the South mountain, in Longswamp townships, Berks county.

The receipts of the Berks County Railroad, during 1873, were $884,470, and the expenditures $923,654.

Mosquitoes have made their appearance at West Chester. The *News* says many faces, which otherwise are free from spot or blemish, now look as though they had passed through a small-pox scourge, owing to the bites of these disagreeable nocturnal visitants.

Work has been resumed in all the works of the Bethlehem Iron Company except the new steel mill.

Typhoid fever and measles are very prevalent in parts of Cambria county.

Samuel H. Orwig's name was stricken from the list of attorneys of the District Court of Philadelphia, on Saturday morning, for misappropriation of funds.

Mr. John M. Thome, a former Harrisburger, has been appointed to the position of first assistant in the astronomical observatory at Cordova, in the Argentine Republic, South America.

The Lewistown *Gazette* says: The old furnace is turning out from eighty-five to ninety tons of iron per week, under the superintendence of Mr. Longacre and Harrison Dufur, and the new furnace will again be put in blast about March.

Alex. Wiley, Esq., of North Huntingdon township, Westmoreland county, accidentally shot himself in the right leg, while hunting, a few days ago. The wound is serious, but not dangerous.

A move is now on foot in Meadville to lease the city market building, or at least a portion of it, for a government for the postoffice, during the next few years.

A Bradford county justice of the peace has been fined fifty dollars for marrying a couple aged fifteen and eighteen respectively.

A large eagle was recently shot in the vicinity of Spread Eagle, Delaware county. This is the first bird of the kind known to have been shot so near Philadelphia for many years. It was shot by two Philadelphians, C. D. Snyder and H. H. Marquet.

The first fema e school director elected under the new Constitution is Mrs. Frederick Fairlamb, of Media, who was recently elected to fill the position of a retiring director.

The vestry of St. John's English Lutheran Church, Allentown, has again nominated Prof. Richards, of Muhlenberg College, as pastor of the congregation.

The carpet weavers' strike in Philadelphia still continues; some 2,500 men are standing out. The vigilance committee appointed to watch those who were so sensible as to accept the reduction, has been guilty of many violent acts, which are alleged to have been perpetrated at the instance of the Communist leaders. These men have not only openly attacked the peaceably-disposed and hard-working weavers, but have gone to their homes and made murderous attempts upon their lives. The Carpet Manufacturers' Association however, have taken summary means to prevent any further continuance of the Communist reign of terror. One prominent manufacturer states that every man in his factory has been threatened with death, unless they leave their looms and join the strikers. It is also reported that several of the representative factors, who are operating their power-looms, have received anonymous communications to the effect that their factories will be fired if the looms are not stopped.

Rev. Jacob Beidler, of Milford, Bucks county, fell dead a few days ago, from apoplexy. He was sixty-five years old, and for many years served the Mennonite denomination as minister.

The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company held their annual meeting in Philadelphia on Monday. The report of the Board of Managers showed that the gross earnings for 1873 were $14,852,661, against $12,125,038 in 1872; the gross expenses in 1873, $9,474,805, and in 1872, $8,063,542; net profits, $5,357,766 in 1873, and $4,061,496 in 1872. The number of passengers carried the past year was 6,790,088; tons of coal, 6,546,553; tons of merchandise, 3,331,194. The value of the property of the company is estimated at $119,053,226 50, and this estimate is believed to be a moderate one. The value as placed upon the balance sheet of all the property is $84,825,551 18, an appreciation in value of $34,227,672 38, equal to a premium of $49 94 per share above the par value of the stock.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

The December Dividends.

[From the New York Bulletin.]

The past year has been one of peculiar trial to our railroads. At the beginning, the severity of the winter materially interfered with travel and traffic, and increased the operating expenses. In the fall, the panic interrupted movements of produce and merchandise at the most active period of the year; and it also so far affected the credit of even first class roads as to cause embarassment and necessitate the use of earnings for current demands which properly belonged to the stockholders, and, in the case of the newer roads, funds had to be used for ordinary expenses which should have been devoted to the interest claims of bondholders, and hence the now large amount of postponed interest payments on the new lines. The strain was a strong test of the condition of this branch of corporate enterprise; and yet the result has been that only the new roads, which are necessarily largely dependent on credit, have suffered any serious embarrassment. With but one or two exceptions, the older roads have made provision for their usual dividends, and some are in a position to make a distribution among the stockholders which have, for some time past, suspended dividends. From a statement given below, showing the gross earnings of leading roads represented on the Stock Exchange, it will be seen that the receipts show a very large increase, the totals for the year being $98,872,929, against $90,431,231 for the year preceding, a gain of nine per cent. During the last quarter of the year, the receipts showed a slight decline in consequence of the interruption of trade by the panic; but this disadvantage is much more than compensated for by the decline in the prices of material, the reduction of wages of employees and a general enforcement of economy; so that it may be safely affirmed of the older roads that the panic has contributed to a material increase in the net earnings, and perhaps they were never making better profits than at present. The panic will, for some time, have the effect of checking the competition between the new roads and the old, by which some of the latter have been seriously threatened. Most of the new companies are no embarrassed in their finances that they cannot at present complete their construction and equipment, and stand helplessly exposed to the powerful competition of their well established rivals. Only about four thousand miles of new road was constructed last year; and the construction of 1874 will probably not reach half that extent; so that the old roads are not threatened by any important competition; but, at the same time, the interruption of road building will deprive them of new feeders which might increase their traffic. It will be seen from reference to the subjoined table, that the increase has been especially large in the case of Central Pacific, Chicago and Northwestern, Lake Shore and Milwaukee and St. Paul.

GROSS EARNINGS DURING THE TWELVE MONTHS.

	1873.	1872.
Atlantic and Great Western	$ 4,184,118	$ 4,131,912
Atlantic and Pacific	1,299,503	1,145,186
Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Minnesota	1,186,943	955,950
Central Pacific	13,938,969	12,734,724
Chicago and Northwestern	13,585,169	12,479,969
Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis	4,624,532	4,390,129
Chicago, Danville and Vincennes	703,093	627,930
Erie	19,621,673	18,386,606
Lake Shore and Michigan Southern	19,134,617	17,392,574
Milwaukee and St. Paul	9,046,151	6,967,771
Pacific of Missouri	3,660,066	3,571,233
St. Louis, Alton and T. H. branches	1,353,314	1,299,086
St. Louis and Iron Mountain	585,248	518,584
St. Louis, Kansas City and Missouri	3,294,608	2,871,544
St. Louis, Kansas City and Missouri	2,755,663	2,856,935
Total	$98,872,929	$90,431,231
Increase	8,441,698	

*Fourth week December estimated.

The earnings for the month of December show a recovery, as compared with the two proceeding months, when there was a slight decrease. The gross receipts for the month, on the following seventeen roads, amount to $8,507,154, against $7,671,029 for the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of $761,125 or nearly ten per cent. This very large gain in traffic is due in part to the late recovery of crops, which had been brought forward produce and merchandise detained through the effects of the panic, but perhaps equally to the openness of the winter, which has favored transportation:

GROSS EARNINGS IN DECEMBER.

	1873.	1872.
Atlantic and Great Western	$ 491,309	$ 494,906
Atlantic and Pacific	97,651	94,022
Burlington, C. Rapids and Min	118,945	84,022
Central Pacific	1,077,767	1,057,992
Chicago and Northwestern	1,019,502	959,789
Cleveland, Col., Cin. and Ind.	394,611	387,404
Chic., Danville and Vincennes	51,964	51,967
Erie	1,625,121	1,394,615
Lake Shore and Mich. South	1,547,903	1,433,570
Milwaukee and St. Paul	843,209	703,757
Pacific of Missouri	306,078	257,815
St. Louis, Alton and T. H.	94,605	97,612
do do branches	38,147	51,179
St. Louis and Iron Mountain	122,657	265,970
St. Louis, Kansas City and Mo.	224,090	241,893
St. Louis and Southwestern	95,490	72,809
Toledo, Peoria and Warsaw	85,620	74,893
Toledo Wabash and Western	444,232	492,235
Total	$8,507,154	$7,746,029
Increase, 1873	761,125	
West Wisconsin	99,000	

*Fourth week estimated.

STATE FINANCES.

Receipts and Expenditures.

The forthcoming report of Auditor General Allen will contain the following exhibit of receipts and expenditures of the State, showing the entire operation of the Treasury Department from the first day of December, 1872, to the 30th day of November, 1873:

SUMMARY OF THE RECEIPTS.

Lands	$53,033 48
Auction commissions	13,705 34
Notary public commissions	7,450 00
Tax on bank stocks	988,148 00
Tax on corporation stocks	1,415,067 31
Tax on personal property	541,607 91
Tax on loans	668,332 93
Tax on dividends, earnings or income	446,946 99
Tax on gross receipts	197,759 42
Tax on enrolment of laws	36,300 00
Tax on dogs	1,500 00
Tax on tonnage	385,370 94
Tax on coal	336,353 91
Commutation of tonnage tax	250,000 00
Taxes on writs, wills, deeds, &c	113,117 02
Tax on foreign insurance	10,733 83
Collateral inheritance tax	397,978 99
Tavern licenses	221,234 73
Retailers' lic

THE RAILROAD WAR.

The Cause of the Battle—The Pennsylvania and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroads—A Statement of the Case—An Interesting Review

[From the Washington Chronicle.]

It seems to have become a periodical necessity for difficulties and misunderstandings to arise between these companies, and whenever any such does occur, a preconceived scheme is issued by the organs of the latter, which fills the land in all its length and breadth with a wail not always musical or truthful. Just now another cry is swelling from the monumental city, and as it promises to reach the ears of most persons connected with or interested in railroads, a few plain facts may as well be presented to accompany it.

The misunderstanding between these companies originated some twelve years ago, when the national capital was endangered by the rebellion, and the resources of the country were taxed to the utmost for its own salvation. At that time the Baltimore and Ohio Company had a short and indirect line reaching Washington, and ran it as a selfish and tyrannical monopoly. Having a single track only on this line, and that being of very imperfect construction and equipment, the road was unequal to the demands upon it, and after a good deal of tronble and some pretty strong intimations from those in government authority, the company owing it was compelled to improve it to its capacity. At that time the Baltimore and Ohio railroad proper was repeatedly broken up and interrupted, so that it could not be relied upon as a channel of communication with the West, and the country looked for some other route to be opened by which the capital could be reached and protected. The Pennsylvania railroad, being the nearest great route to Washington, connecting the Western and Northern States of the Union, which passed entirely through loyal territory, was entrusted by the government and people to meet the indispensable requirement. This it did promptly and securing the control of, and thoroughly repairing, the Northern Central Railroad, which connected with its main road and other important lines at Harrisburg, and thus completed a railroad system radiating throughout all the loyal states. This soon was this accomplished, and the system made effective by the exertions of Pennsylvania Railroad officers and the organization of Pennsylvania railroad employes, and rolling-stock, than the managers of the Baltimore and Ohio commenced a system of boasting toward all connected with it, which has been persisted in, without interruption or abatement, down to the present time. These managers refused to sell, or permit to be sold, tickets over any of the Pennsylvania lines to any station, general or local. They refused to permit baggage to be checked from any point on the Pennsylvania lines over their forty miles of road forming the connection to Washington; and in many other ways they illustrated the fable of the dog in the manager. This Washington branch was their dog—their goose that laid the golden eggs; and they determined that all the American people should give in their devotion and their duces. From Maine to California protestations were heard against their illiberality and selfishness, but they put money in their purses, and smiled in derision at the suffering and complaining public. During the darkest periods of the war full one-tenth of the men and material required by the government from the West and North were carried over the lines of the Pennsylvania railroad Company to Baltimore, and from that point reached the capital over the forty miles of road owned by the Baltimore and Ohio Company, but the latter still domineered with its petty monopoly, and refused to make connections to the railroad system which was enriching it almost beyond comprehension or precedent. As an instance of the spirit exhibited in this monopoly during the rebellion, it may be stated that, while all other railroads in the Union were transporting troops at terms proposed by the government for the transportation of troops, viz: two cents per mile, the Baltimore and Ohio Company insisted upon full local rates of fare between Baltimore and Washington, and quite recently was prosecuting a claim against the government for this rate.

Th e condition of things continued until after the war had ceased. So long as the exigency of the country poured a stream of wealth over the forty-mile monopoly, the men who controlled it were no terms with any company. New England enterprise took hold of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore road, and made it equal to the demands upon it as a national line; but at its southern terminus it was headed off by the monopoly, just as the Pennsylvania lines were. Standing astride of the Monumental City was a great colossus of reader—a giant in fact, though not in form, a garret of the temple of fame, who proclaimed to all the enterprise of the North and East, as Canute had to the tide, "thus far shalt thou go, and no farther." But the Northern people, in and out of Congress, had become impatient and aroused, and now, as the "little unpleasantness," which had kept them busy for five years, was ended, they began to talk seriously upon breaking this giant over. It was then that he descended from his dizzy height, and entered into an agreement (the same which the ghost of the monopoly now so dismally prates about) with the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore, and Washington and Amboy and New Jersey Transportation companies, by which the line of road between Washington and New York should be placed under one management, and each of the contracting parties should furnish a proportion of new equipments for the business to be done based upon its mileage in the same. This agreement was signed on the 1st of July, 1868, and was carried out effectively by the general management of the late W. Prescott Smith. Not long after this arrangement was made, the passenger rates on the passengers carried over the forty-mile branch was removed, and as the through rate of fare between the terminal points had been fixed by the agreeing companies, with this tax in existence, at a rate per mile which was considered reasonable, the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore, and the Camden and Amboy and New Jersey Transportation Companies naturally and reasonably expected an equitable division of the amount of the *per capita*. This the monopoly unanimously resisted, and demanded its pound of flesh.

The equity and justice of the case were entirely ignored by it, and it deliberately and unlawfully broke the agreement by refusing to sell tickets or check baggage under its provisions. Finally a compromise was effected and the line continued, but only by sufferance on the part of the other companies, who very justly considered that the monopoly and Ohio Company had no right to abrogate the agreement at its pleasure and yet demand its fulfillment by the other contracting parties. The Pennsylvania Company, as the successor of the Camden and Amboy and New Jersey Transportation Companies, entertains the same view, and has acted accordingly.

But no goose could be squeezed, as was their fortune monopoly, to produce golden eggs, without sooner or later coming to grief, and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company was the instrument ordained to put a stop to it. Failing to secure from the monopoly common courtesy and common fairness, it quietly went to work and built the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, which gave it an outlet in Washington city for the first time, and enabled it to connect there with the railroad system of the South. Saving only the Baltimore and Ohio monopoly, every interest in the United States benefited by the new railroad system was benefit by the construction of the Baltimore and Potomac road. It facilitated the trade of Baltimore city; it relieved Washington travel from delay and annoyance, and it perfected the communication between the North and South. Consequently, as the new improvement was, in the very nature of things, a large sum, and those who paid this money had an unquestioned right to realize something from their investment. When the new road was completed, therefore, it was at once put in operation. Through trains were run over it between New York and Washington, and, as time elapsed, these trains were multiplied, until now they extend to all the important railroad centers in the North and West.

The American traveling public, who appreciate thoroughly the requirements of speed, safety and comfort, soon discovered that the new way was decidedly the best way to get to or from the national capital, and they gave it their patronage. This they did from choice, not necessity, because the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which controls and runs the new line, never refused to sell tickets and check baggage over the old route to all who preferred it; and it is willing to continue to do this on the fairest possible terms—ignoring the injustice from which it suffered in the past—if a reasonable spirit of reciprocity can be enforced and practiced by its rival. It will do this cheerfully, not because it has any favors to ask from the Baltimore and Ohio management, but because it is anxious to extend every possible facility and advantage to the business of the country, as well as to the traveling public.

This whole subject, so far as the Pennsylvania railroad is concerned, originated in the grasping avariciousness and utter lack of courtesy of the Baltimore and O io management. The city of Baltimore is the outlet for a very large Pennsylvania trade, and this trade has a right to expect reasonable facilities to be furnished them by transporting companies for its accommodation. Such facilities were denied, and continued to be denied by the monopoly claiming to own and control all the railroad franchises of the State of Maryland, and they had, indeed, for a time, created against its strenuous opposition. They are now in existence, and it is fair to say that the accommodations at present furnished in Baltimore by the lines of railroad controlled by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, both for passengers and freight, are equal to those provided in any other great commercial city. The same can be said, also, of Washington city. Naturally, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the Baltimore and Ohio Company are rivals for the business of Washington as the two centers of industry and travel, and the first-named company intends to prosecute this rivalry to the extent of its ability, and with intelligent zeal. It will furnish the best possible road-bed and equipment for the transportation of freight and passengers. It will run the most improved cars to and from Baltimore and Washington, and it will "put them through" as speedily and safely as the best motive-power and the most experienced management can do so. It will permit no unnessary delays; no tedious dragging through crowded stores by horse-power; no dumping of passengers at remote depots. It will carry passengers to and from these terminal points at the same rates of fare as the Baltimore and Ohio possibly can; and it will carry them as comfortably, speedily and safely. By these means the Pennsylvania Railroad Company expects to maintain, and even increase, the popularity of the lines. All this it considers fair business rivalry—a rivalry that conduces to the public benefit, and it is the only sort of warfare with the management of the Baltimore and Ohio.

Before closing this article it may not by out of place to invite attention to the absurd demand upon which all these complaints of the Baltimore and Ohio management are based. The roads of that company terminate at Baltimore—east of that city it does not own a single mile of roadway. A branch of its main line runs from the Relay House to Washington—a distance of thirty-one miles; and its management actually claims and insists that it shall be permitted to run its own trains from Washington to New York, and *vice versa*, a distance of two hundred and twenty-eight miles, because it owns altogether forty miles of the line! It demands that the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore railroad, ninety-eight miles in length, and the Philadelphia and New Jersey, ninety miles in length, shall unite and give it terminal facilities at Jersey City, because of the few miles of local road between Baltimore and Washington! In other words, it endeavors to set the whole country by the ears, and draw an ocean of sympathetic tears in its behalf, because it is not given the right to run its trains over the roads and at the pleasure, one hundred and eighty-eight miles of railroad entirely beyond its terminus, and for the construction and equipment of which it never paid a dollar! If the world's history of railroading can show a more utterly absurd claim, for the entertainment of humanity, some one should point it out.

WAS IT MURDER?

Mysterious Drowning.

At three o'clock Saturday morning last, the captain and mate on the Messenger, lying at the wharf, were aroused by hearing a loud noise. On getting up they discovered a person in a large boat the boat, and another struggling in the water. They at once ran to his rescue. They secured a rope, and threw it to the drowning man. He seized it, but before he could be drawn up his strength failed him and he sank and was lost. The man in the barges left on their approach, and hastened up the wharf. No one knows who he is, or who the drowned man was. The mate of the Kallinger, who was also aroused and helped to save the man, states that on Friday night, also, he saw two men leave a saloon on the wharf, and go in the direction of the barge. He knows nothing further about them. There is some suspicion that the man who ran away may have shoved his companion overboard. It is singular that the circumstance was kept quiet so long.

Since the above was written the body of the drowned man has been recovered. He was apparently a boatman, about thirty years of age. He had on a blue coat and vest, light colored pants and flannel shirt. He had a sandy, and he wore a moustache. The body has not been identified. Coroner McCallin will hold an inquest to-day. It does not appear that the man was drunk, and from the conduct of the companion of the deceased was suspicious, to say the least.

Lamentable Death.

A short time ago the young wife of Mr. W. H. Gildenfenny, of this city, went on a visit to some friends in Martinsburg, West Virginia. The time of her expected return was nearly at hand, when Mr. G. received a telegraphic dispatch informing him of her serious illness. He needed no urging to go to her side, but started immediately. Before he arrived the dread disease, pneumonia, had so unexpectedly attacked her, proved fatal. The grief-stricken husband arrived only to learn that the spirit had departed. The case is a peculiarly sad one. The bereaved lady was the daughter of Thomas Collins, of North Fayette township. She was beautiful, accomplished, and only in her twenty-first year, having been married but about a year and a half at the time of her death. She was possessed of every good and beautiful quality of mind and heart, which endeared her to all who knew her, and caused her death to be deplored by a very large circle of true friends.

COAL MINERS' CONVENTION.

Secretary's Report—A Ventilation Law Demanded—Limits of the Association.

The Miners' Protective and Progressive Association of Western Pennsylvania opened its annual Delegate Convention Tuesday morning. The Convention was called to order by President William Street. Mr. George Archbold acted as Secretary, and Mr. John Maguire as Assistant Secretary. Twenty-two delegates represented the following points: Sent hig, Hartley, Long, Midway, Turtle Creek, Plum Creek, Sandy Creek, Beech Run, Allegheny, Walton, O'Neil's, Webster, Armstrong, Hite station and Spring Hill.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary's report for the year 1873, setting forth the condition of the association financially and otherwise, was read and ordered to be printed for the use of the delegates. It makes a very favorable showing. The report of the Auditing Committee was read and filed. The Committee on Organization, who were instructed to meet with the Chief of the State Bureau of Statistics in relation to all matters connected with mining of coal in Western Pennsylvania, made a report, which was accepted.

A motion to suspend the regular order of business was lost.

A proposition to revise the constitution and by-laws was voted down.

The next question before the Convention was: Shall we still continue to employ a man to attend to the interest of the organization, who shall devote his entire time to that work, or, who shall that officer be, the Secretary or the President?

After discussion it was resolved to continue to employ a man to look after the interests of the organization. Without deciding who that officer should be, the Convention adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A committee was sent to the Red Lion Hotel to invite the delegates to the Western Council of the Miners' and Laborers' Benevolent Association of Pennsylvania, in session there, to seats on the floor of the Convention. This Committee soon after returned with a portion of that delegation. The Convention then decided nearly unanimously to continue the Secretary of the Association as Chief Organizer, who should be properly remunerated for devoting his entire attention to the interests of the association.

A VENTILATION LAW WANTED.

The regular order of business was then suspended to take up the subject of ventilation, and, after discussion, it was resolved by a majority committee of one from each county represented in the Association, to draft a joint resolution requesting the Legislature to appoint a committee of practical miners to investigate the condition of the mines in Western Pennsylvania. It was shown by the several speakers taking part in the discussion that without such a law, the miner on account of either the "black damp" or the "white damp," was only putting himself in danger of slow or rapid decline.

The committee selected for this purpose consist of the following gentlemen: Messrs. Archbold, Allegheny county; Clinton, Washington county; Bevins, Fayette county, and Rogers, of Westmoreland county.

It was next resolved to divide the Association into counties, but giving the miners themselves the privilege of joining that county Association to which their interests at the time more directly lay.

PROGRAMME FOR TO-DAY.

The Convention, at five o'clock P. M., adjourned until nine o'clock this morning, when the following subjects will be taken up in their order:

The advisability of dividing the county into districts, and the appointing of suitable persons to act as district deputies.

Shall the river and the railroad men be allowed the privilege of settling their own sectional grievances?

Shall we adopt the eight hour system, as a sufficient day's work in the mines of the river and railroad?

Shall we hold a demonstration next summer?

The nomination and election of the officers of the Association for the ensuing term of one year.

The Miners' Protective and Progressive Association of Western Pennsylvania met again Wednesday and completed their labors.

On motion the question of dividing the counties into districts, and the appointment of suitable persons to act as District Deputies, was referred to the separate counties to settle for themselves.

Mr. Steiner spoke in reference to the manner in which he conceived the position of the miners is misrepresented in some of the public prints.

A motion was made and carried that this association become a branch of the National Association.

The question was then taken up, "Shall the river and railroad men be allowed the privilege of settling their own sectional grievances?"

The proposition was discussed at considerable length, and finally determined in the negative.

The next proposition discussed was, "Shall we adopt the eight hour system, as a sufficient day's work in this section, both river and railroad?"

Pending action on the question, the association adjourned until afternoon.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After some further discussion it was decided to ask a reduction of working hours to eight.

A discussion occurred on the question of ventilation, whereupon it was agreed to advocate the passage of the joint resolution heretofore before the Legislature and upon which the two Houses failed to agree.

An election for officers then took place.

Mr Wm. B. Street was elected President and Mr. George Archibald, Secretary.

Adjourned.

UNITED WORKINGMEN.

Meeting of the Grand Lodge of the American Order—Interesting Proceedings.

The Grand Lodge of the American Order of United Workmen of the State of Pennsylvania met in this city Tuesday.

The Grand Lodge officers were present as follows: W. H. Comstock, G. M. W.; Erie county; W. W. Walker, S. M. W., Meadville; M. W. Sackett, G. R'v'r, Pittsburgh; B. C. Pratt, G. Rec'r, Corry; R. W. Dunn, G. G. F., Franklin; O. M. Barnes, G. O., Meadville; H. Book, G. G., Allegheny; John T. Davis, G. W., Erie.

Representatives and Past Master Workmen from about sixty subordinate lodges were present.

Reading of the minutes of the last session of the Grand Lodge was dispensed with.

A motion was made and carried that all the representatives of the Subordinate Lodges from which reports have been received and per capita tax paid, who are without certificates as representatives, be recognized as such, and that the Grand Lodge degree be conferred upon them.

In accordance with the motion, the Grand Lodge degree was conferred by W. W. Walker, S. M. W.

A committee on election returns was appointed, consisting of J. Washington, F. J. Keifer and S. A. Rose.

The Grand Lodge then adjourned, to meet at two o'clock P. M.

At the appointed hour in the afternoon the Order convened and proceeded to an election of officers, with the following result:

G. G. M.—W. H. Comstock.

G. M. W.—S. B. Myers.

G. G. F.—Thomas Jones.

G. R'v'r—M. W. Sackett.

G. Rec'r—H. G. Pratt.

G. G.—Elliott Harvey.

G. W.—J. A. Smith.

G. Trustees—O. M. Barnes, Thomas Jones and J. H. McNeil.

Representatives to Supreme Lodge—William W. Walker, M. W. Sackett, W. Comstock, John E. McNair, Wm. S. Black, Joseph Moorhead, H. G. Pratt.

The Grand Lodge then adjourned until half-past eight o'clock Wednesday morning.

elect will be installed.

The Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, reassembled Wednesday morning at Schiller Hall and completed their labors.

A number of additional representatives, Past Master workmen, were announced in waiting.

The Grand Lodge degree was conferred by W. W. Walker, S. M. W., on the same.

A communication was received from Franklin Lodge, No. 64, asking the admission of a brother as representative who has not passed the chair. After a lengthy discussion the Grand Lodge decided that it would be establishing a bad precedent, and declined to grant the request.

D. J. McMillin, from the Finance Committee, reported that they had examined the Grand Recorder's report and find it correct. The Grand Recorder's report shows the following:

Balance in favor of the G. L. $1,690 23
Balance of insurance on hand at report. ... 2,020 00
Insurance received from Pennsylvania assessments 23,319 00
Back Insurance assessments 612 00
Insurance from Supreme Recorder. 514 00

Total $27,492 99
Paid insurance $20,000 00
Paid Supreme Recorder 2,162 00
Cash on hand 4,330 00

Total $27,492 00

They also report that they have examined the report of the Executive Committee and find it to be correct. The report shows a profit from the sale of merchandise during the last term of $1,050 45.

Jones Petrie, from the same committee, also reported a report stating that they had examined the Grand Receiver's report, and find it correct.

The report shows the following:

Cash on hand at last report, July 1, 1873...$ 404 61
Cash from Grand Recorder. 3,340 04

Total $3,744 65
Disbursed on sundry warrants $3,631 30
Balance on hand. 113 35

Total $3,744 65

James McCandless, from the Committee on Laws and Supreme Representative, reported approving the by-laws of a number of subordinate lodges.

The Grand Lodge officers, reported yesterday as having been elected for the ensuing year, were then installed by the following Supreme Grand Lodge Officers: W. W. Walker, S. M. W.; J. M. McNair, P. S. M.; W. S. Black, S. G.

A resolution was offered and carried, that the Grand Master Workman, Grand Recorder and Grand Receiver be empowered to procure a set of regalia for this Grand Lodge, according to the regulations as laid down by the Supreme Lodge.

The charter rolls from Deputy Grand Master Workmen, and the Past Master Workmen were presented and approved.

THE PITTSBURGH, VIRGINIA AND CHARLESTON RAILWAY.

Annual Meeting—The Earnings—Election of Officers.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railroad was held at the office of the company, No. 61 Fourth avenue, at two o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The President, Mr. B. F. Jones, submitted a verbal report, in which he referred to the success of the road during the past year, and called attention to the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer and Engineer, which he said would be found to contain all the information desired.

Mr. D. P. Converse, Secretary and Treasurer, presented his annual report, which referred to an discrepancy in the amounts of receipts and disbursements, and said: "You will notice that the aggregate is not as large as in 1873, but on comparing the items you will find a comparative statement of the receipts and disbursements for the years 1873 and 1874, which shows a gain for 1873 in passenger earnings of $35,937 46, and for freight earnings of $12,577 94, making the gross increase from both sources, $48,375 62. While the actual cash receipts have been increased to this amount our operating expenses have also increased in almost the same rate, yet combining the operating expenses, which are $41,558 16, we still have a margin of $6,817 41 increase over the legitimate operating expenses. In the history of railroads of this length, it is rare to find one so self-sustaining as this road has been."

Mr. W. J. Ross, General Freight and Passenger Agent, Joseph Walton, William J. Howard, Henry B. Hays, J. C. Bisbor, Alex. Patton.

—The following are the quotations for government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.	Close.
U. S. 6s 1881	116¾	116⅝	116⅝
1881, coupons	117¼	117⅛	117⅛
5-20s, 1862	113⅝	113⅝	113⅝
5-20s, 1864	115⅛	115⅛	115⅛
5-20s, 1865	116¼	116⅛	116⅛
5-20s, new	115⅛	115⅛	115⅛
5-20s, 1867	116¼	116¼	116¼
5-20s 1868	116	116⅛	116⅛
10-40s	112⅜	112⅜	112⅜
10-40s, coupons	113¼	113¼	113¼
Currency 6s	114½	114½	114½
New 5s	113¾	113⅝	113⅝
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessee	79¼		79¼
Tennessee, new	79⅜		79
South Carolina, July	10		11
Missouri 6s	92½		92

HOP MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

January 16.—The market remains very quiet, and we have no transactions to report. Holders are firm and look for better prices soon.

Domestic receipts for the week ..... Bales.
Total receipts since Sept. 1, 1873 12,932
Total receipts for same period in 1872-73 16,841
Total receipts for same period in 1871-72 22,448
Imports for the week 124
Total imports since Sept. 1, 1873 10,399
Passenger earnings of $35,937 46, and for freight earnings of $12,577 94, making the gross increase from both sources, $48,375 62. While the actual cash receipts have been increased to this amount our operating expenses have also increased in almost the same rate, yet combining the operating expenses, which are $41,558 16, we still have a margin of $6,817 41 increase over the legitimate operating expenses. In the history of railroads of this length, it is rare to find one so self-sustaining as this road has been."

Export from New York, from January 1 to December 31:

	1873.	1872.
Hops, bales	7,035	5,913

PHILADELPHIA.

January 16.—There has been some disposition in the trade to make purchases, which has had a tendency to stiffen prices, the stock in dealers' hands not being large. With an increased activity, prices are not quotably higher as yet, and it is thought that any material advance will renew importations of foreign and produce a reaction to figures as low or lower than those now ruling.

New York, 1873	8@25	O. Olds, '70	30@38
Western, "	25@40	Bavarians, '73	35@40c
Eastern "	26@40c	English, 1873	38@45c
Yearlings, 1873	15@30c	Belgians, 1873	30@35c
Olds, 1869	1873	9@	California, '73

—Price Current.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, January 14, 1874.

The severe strain upon all banking institutions which the troubles of the past fall brought on them, is working a beneficial effect on the system of banking wherever conducted by thoughtful men who wish to place their business on a footing that will prevent like disasters in case of a repetition of these troubles. The panic will not have been without good if the evils developed are reformed altogether, and the weaknesses in the manner of conducting business avoided here after.

The "Certificate of Deposit" made payable with interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, if left six months," as usually issued by the country banks, is the foundation of the trouble. For the result has proved that when uneasiness is felt, or money is scarce for any cause, when the banks most need to hold on to their funds, the holders of these certificates will forfeit the interest, if the six months has not expired, their fears or their necessities getting the better of their judgment; and if the six months has expired the certificate becomes a *six per cent. call loan* —payable on presentation, and must be paid when presented.

In former days it was the habit of the farming population to loan their funds to each other on notes or other evidences of indebtedness for specified times. As a class, the farmers are solvent, and the owners of money, when any financial disturbance occured feels rather more secure with his capital in the hands of his neighbor than if it were in bank. Of late years, especially within the last eight, there has grown up throughout the rural districts a large number of banking houses, which, by the very liberal "certificate of deposit" above quo'ed, have induced the farmers to deposit with them their surplus funds.

We grant to these banks the credit of all the good they have done. They have collected into available the shape numerous insignificant sums that would otherwise have been idle; they have stimulated business by furnishing banking facilities where they were needed; they have largely helped to develope the agricultural and mineral resources of the country; they have stimulated to enterprise and improvement the otherwise slow moving *rustics*; they have increased the wealth of their various sections, and, with the increase of wealth, have raised the standard of education and refinement of those with whom they deal; they have done all this, but they have put into the hands of their depositors the weapon of their own destruction. Under the influence of the confidence they inspire, the ease of investing money immediately at interest, the readiness to get it when wanted, their deposits at certain seasons of the year have grown to such plethoric condition that, compared with their capital, it was the old figure of the pyramid standing on its apex. As a result, in order to make interest or their otherwise idle funds, they carry larger balances in this city with the banks that pay interest on running balances, who in turn send their money to New York, where it fosters the spirit of speculation and ends in panic, and panic once rampant, runs back through the course of trade, resting finally on the cause of its inception and growth—the interest-bearing certificate of deposit, payable on demand, issued by the country banks.

Our remarks on this subject were brought forth by receiving a copy of the proceedings of a meeting of bankers of certain counties, which we herewith print:

KITTANNING, PA., December 10, 1873.

In pursuance of the call for a meeting of representatives of banks and bankers in Indiana, Westmoreland and Armstrong counties, at this place, today, for the consideration of the subject of redemption, and the co-operation of all banks in this district, a uniform practice for conducting their business, the following banks were represented:

First National bank, Kittanning, by Jas. E. Brown, President.

Allegheny Valley bank, by T. H. Allison, M. D., President.

Apollo Savings bank, by S. M. Jackson, Cashier.

Leechburg Banking Co., by D. Bowers, Cashier.

Farmers and Drovers bank, by A. Logan, Cashier.

East Brady Savings bank, by J. Y. Foster, Cashier.

Tarentum bank, by R. D. Himes, Cashier.

Freeport Savings bank, by J. Vanderlip, President.

John Ralston & Co., by D. A. Ralston, Cashier.

Saltsburg bank, by D. S. Robinson, Cashier.

James E. Brown, Esq., was called to the chair, and Jr. S. Robinson elected Secretary.

The Chairman submitted the following, as requiring action at this meeting: 1st. Deposits. 2d. Loans. 3d. Collections. 4th. Exchanges.

DEPOSITS.

For certificates—The following was offered, to prevent time deposits being *call loans*, after maturity of the certificates now in general use:

$ ..... Pittsburgh, ... —187

Six months after date, the ..... (name of bank) will pay to order of ..... dollars, with interest at the rate of five (5) per cent. per annum. Payable in National bank notes. If not presented at maturity, it will be continued as a renewal for same time.

No. ..... Cashier.

which, after careful consideration, was unanimously adopted.

LOANS.

Loans should not be made for a longer time than 60 days; and the adoption of a note for loans (form shown in circular accompanying this), if in general use, would prevent almost every one met with by banks.

COLLECTIONS.

Charge for checks, drawn upon and forwarded to the collecting banks, for amounts under $200, 25 cents. On amounts over $200, 50 cents.

Charge for checks drawn upon other and distant banks, for amounts under $100, 25 cents. Over $100, 50 cents.

Charge for drafts, drawn upon individuals, for amounts under $100, 50 cents. Over $100, ½ per cent, with a minimum charge of $1.

Collections and acceptances upon individuals, to receive attention, must be accompanied with a fee of 25 cents, which shall be credited on the usual charge.

EXCHANGES.

On Eastern cities: Charge 25 cents on amounts under $100. Over $100, ¼ per cent.

On Pittsburgh: Charge 25 cents on amounts under $200. Over $200, ¼ th per cent.

To have the co-operation desired, and accomplish the object as stated, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1st. That all banks, here represented, adopt and adhere to, the rates for charges as specified, and that all present ask for concurrence of all banks and bankers in this district, not now represented.

2d. That the Secretary have the above action printed and submitted to the several banks in this district, and request their approval and adoption, to take effect January 1st, 1874.

3d. That all banks and bankers in the district, (collecting for or missing returns from, or when requested so to do, remit the "City Correspondent" of the bank in the district forwarding, less the agreed charges, to avoid delay.

4th. That further meetings of the bankers may be called by the chairman, or representatives of any three banks in the district, and the Secretary shall be paid pro rata by the banks adopting this action.

Adjourned.

JAMES E. BROWN, Chairman.

D. S. ROBINSON, Secretary.

We do hereby approve the above action, and adopt it, to take effect January 1st, 1874.

——, Pres't. Cash'r.

——Bank.

December——1873.

The form of certificate as adopted obviates in a great measure the evils spoken of—the only doubt we have is whether the rate of interest is not too high. Five per cent. should be the maximum and scaled down in accordance with the season of the year and with the amount of the deposit.

The form of note recommended will doubtless answer the purpose of its creation, and may be adapted to the close of borrowers who use it but would scarcely be acceptable to mercantile borrowers.

The subject of collections and exchanges we have already discussed and believe the charges to be just and reasonable and necessary to successful and profitable banking.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Luther S. Kauffman, broker, 96 Fourth avenue.

January 14, 1874.	10:20 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	111⅛	111⅛	111⅛	111⅛	111⅛	111⅛
Canton	77	77	77	77	77½	77½
Western Union Teleg'h	77	77	77	77	77	77
Quicksilver	28⅜	28⅜	28⅜	28⅜	28⅜	28⅜
Pacific Mail	40	40	40	40	40	40
Adams Express		99⅜		99		
Wells, Fargo Express		46½		46½		
American Express		60¾		60¾		
United States Express		71		71		
New York Central	102⅝	102⅞		103⅛	103⅞	103⅞
Erie		24¾				
Michigan Central		94		94		
Michigan Southern	82⅝	82⅝		83	83⅛	83⅛
Illinois Central		103		103¼		
Cleveland & Pittsburgh		93		93		
Chicago & Northwest	60¾	60		60⅝	61	61⅛
Do Preferred		74			75¼	
Rock Island	104¾	104¾		104⅝	105⅛	105⅝
St. Paul		36¾		36¾	36¾	36¾
Do Preferred		57½			57½	
Wabash	37½	37½		37½	37½	37½
Fort Wayne		91		91		
Ohio and Mississippi	34¾	34¾		34¾	34¾	34¾
Union Pacific	34	34¼		34⅝	34¾	34¾
Chicago and Alton		110		110		
Boston, Hartford and Erie					3⅞	
Hannibal and St. Joseph		126¾		127		
Harlem				133		
C. C. & I. C.				97¾		97¾

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET—WEEKLY REVIEW.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, January 15, 1874.

RECEIPTS.

	Cattle. No. head.	Hogs. No. head.	Sheep. No. head.	Horses No. head.	Mules No. head.
Thursday, Jan. 8	730	1,800	300	30	34
Friday, Jan. 9	1,300	1,600	400	53	21
Saturday, Jan. 10	900	2,200	400	75	66
Monday, Jan. 12	796	2,300	503	15	...
Monday, Jan. 12	875	2,610	800	15	...
Tuesday, Jan. 13	1,116	3,150	4,000	45	...
Wednesday, Jan. 14	...	...	...	...	...
Total	6,089	13,728	7,085	233	121
Last week	6,542	14,618	8,835	307	...

*Till noon nothing on Yard Master's book.

SHIPMENTS.

	Cattle. No. head.	Hogs. No. head.	Sheep. No. head.	Horses No. head.	Mules No. head.
Thursday, Jan. 8	2,070	1,600	1,300	...	...
Friday, Jan. 9	1,500	1,800	500	115	...
Saturday, Jan. 10	1,555	2,710	...	130	60
Monday, Jan. 12	1,500	3,570	...	60	31
Tuesday, Jan. 13	1,221	3,000	1,800	15	...
Wednesday, Jan. 14	...	...	...	...	...
Total	7,393	13,480	3,800	251	121
Last week	3,825	8,205	6,800	45	...

*Till noon nothing reported.

Cattle.

The receipts of cattle for the week ending to-day, have been fair, or in other words about sufficient to meet the current demand. The quality of the offerings were generally the medium grades with some common and a sprinkling of good. The weather has been favorable for trade and with a good attendances of buyers both from the leading markets and from the small interior towns of the state. The market closed dull and ruled 50 cents per head lower than on Tuesday, and ruled so throughout the day. However not many cattle changed hands, as buyers were loth to pay the advance asked by sellers, being at least from ¼ to ½ more than last week. On Wednesday the receipts did not prove heavy, and buyers at once made up their minds to purchase, and trade ruled moderately active, most of the offerings changing hands. Most of the sales made were between the range of 4c and 4½c per pound gross. This was owing to the fact that there was nothing good enough to bring the price, as no doubt $6 50 would be paid for a bunch of prime or extra cattle. At this writing there is not a great deal of stock in the pens unsold and the prospect is that trade will rule firm to the close.

Following are the current rates:

PRICES.

Extra 1,400 to 1,500 lbs steers, fine and smooth, $6 50 ; extra 1,300 lbs steers, $6 00 to $6 25; prime, 1,200 lbs steers, $5 50 to $5 75; fair 1,100 lbs steers, $5 to $5 25; fair 1,000 lbs steers, $4 25 to $4 50; common, $4 75 to $4; bulls, $2 50 to $4.

Sheep.

The run of sheep for the week was light. The quality of the offerings were mostly of the medium and lower grades. Advices from the Eastern markets is favorable for trade, and to this time the market has ruled active and higher. The advance is from ¼ to ⅜c, and at this writing most of the offerings have changed hands.

PRICES.

Extra 100 lbs fine wool, $6 00@6 12; prime 95 lbs, fine wool, $5 90@6 00; prime 90 lbs, fine wool, $5 75; good 86 lbs $5 25@5 50.

Cattle Sales.

HAZLEWOOD, BLACKSTOCK & NEWTON SOLD.

No.	Weight.	Price.	No.	Weight.	Price.
12	12,530	$5 00	1	2,750	$5 25
3	3,000	5 25	18	14,490	5 25
2	1,650	1 50			

HOLMES, LAFFERTY & CO. SOLD

18	19,880	$5 04	19	19,260	$4 00
19	22,270	4 00	3	2,610	3 25
11	11,950	5 00	2	2,600	4 50
2	2,230	6 00	61	58,650	5 00
1	860	4 00	19	20,020	4 50
19	19,020	3 50	2	1,840	3 00
2	2,430	5 00	1	1,140	4 00
2	1,960	3 75	15	15,600	5 00
34	37,790	5 25	1	1,190	5 00

HEDGES, HUFF & CO. SOLD.

28	29,560	$5 00	3	3,050	$2 75
5	5,330	3 25	8	7,900	4 00
2	2,130	2 00	18	15,440	5 00
4	3,740	4 00	1	1,040	3 00
19	20,560	4 25	20	19,160	3 00
18	19,440	5 50	20	per head

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1874.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIALS of the following dates to complete our files: February 24th, July 13th and September 26th 1872, and March 1st, 1873.

THE President on Saturday approved the recent act which amends the laws relative to internal revenue so as to allow distillery warehouses to be continued in use after changes have occurred in the management of the business. Great interest has been manifested by distillers generally in the enactment of this law.

THE Secretary of the Treasury decides that under no circumstances can he redeem a loan of the United States without authority from Congress, by law containing an appropriation of the amount necessary to do it. The test of this came in the matter of the loan of 1868, a few days since, and will govern all redemptions of registered bonds of that loan.

THERE is said to be no longer a doubt as to the intention of Congress to resist increased taxation. The leaders in both Houses, the men who mold the opinions of their colleagues from different sections, and a majority of the members of the Ways and Means and Finance Committees, state emphatically that there is no prospect at all of increased taxation. Good. Now let the people keep a sharp look on Congress, and see to it that this fair promise is fully carried out; even if it *does* involve the strangling of scores of pet "schemes."

NOTWITHSTANDING the discouraging influences of the September panic with respect to United States railroad securities in Germany, it appears that our friends in that country have still sufficient confidence in them to lend money by the million. Last Friday, bonds to the amount of $2,610,000 were negotiated in the Fatherland by the President of the Iowa and Pacific Railroad, which insures the completion of that road the coming season. It runs midway between the Illinois Central and the Milwaukee and St. Paul roads, and taps a fine, rich country.

PRETTY conclusive evidence that the commercial business of the country was, upon the whole, conducted on safe and conservative principles, is afforded by the fact that, while of the 600,000 mercantile firms which, in round numbers, there are in the United States and Canada, there are from 25,000 to 30,000 failures every year, yet the failures of 1873 did not exceed the latter number. Of course the panic had a severe effect upon mercantile business in the reduction of sales and profits, and it is also true that some of the mercantile failures were very heavy ones, while the aggregate amount of suspended paper was greater than in ordinary periods; but, with the hopeful prospects now visible in trade, it is believed that the ultimate loss by commercial paper will not greatly exceed the loss sustained in ordinary years.

BOSTON is bleating with lamb-like satisfaction because she has become the great wool market of the country, and seems likely to remain so for some years. Last year's statistics of that important interest show the receipts at that point to have been, of domestic, 221,159 against 159,710 in 1872, and the imports of foreign to be 45,912 bales. The stock in the market during the past nine months has been 7,882,600 pounds, against 3,662,000 pounds in 1872; and the stock of foreign wools on December 31 was 7,207,650 pounds. The supply of the staple at New York, it is stated, does not exceed 1,000 bales against 4,883 bales last year, and the bulk of the stock of Cape wool is now held in Boston. Prices of all kinds of wool are firm and tending upward. About one-half the California clip has been sold in the Boston market. Shrewd as, confessedly, they are, our modern Athenians are getting the wool in their eyes.

THE report of the Commission appointed under the act to authorize inquiries into the causes of steam-boiler explosions has just been transmitted to Congress by the President. In response to the circulars asking for information on the causes of explosions, a number of communications from foreign countries were received, many of which contained valuable suggestions. A number of safety-valves have also been received from abroad, to be tested by the Commission. The conclusions drawn rom the recent experiments in this city and Louisville will also be furnished in a subsequent report. A great number of communications were received by the Commission from engineers and others in Great Britain and Canada, showing clearly that the interest in the results which it is hoped will flow therefrom, is not confined to the United States, but is largely shared in abroad, inasmuch as the results hoped for, if attained, will be of as great value to foreign countries as to our own.

IT is gratifying to observe the effect which the popular and positive demand for retrenchment and economy in the matter of the public expenditures is having upon Congress. Every scheme of assistance is doubtful projects, and every plan committing the government to an indefinite expense, must be throttled without hesitancy or mercy. There is one branch of the public service, however, with regard to which it is to be hoped a liberal policy may prevail—the United States Signal Service Bureau. Barely three years have elapsed since, by special act of Congress, appropriation was made to apply to the expense of meteorological observations upon the lakes and seaboard. The list of disasters on the great lakes for the three years preceding and the three following these observations is as follows: 1866, disasters recorded, 621; in 1867, 931; in 1868, 983; and in 1869, 1,002. Observations began to be taken and warnings given during this year. In 1870 the lake disasters recorded were 971; in 1871, 750; and in 1872, 314. It will therefore be seen that the system of cautionary signals adopted by the signal service has in three years reduced the number of disasters by storm more than two-thirds, or the unquestionable salvation of commercial property amounting to many millions of dollars. Indeed, the utilitarian value of this comparatively inexpensive branch of the public service can hardly be overestimated, and it ought on no account to be crippled in its operations for want of a sufficient appropriation.

McCLURE'S ELECTION LAW.

The supplement to the general election law, now pending in the State Senate, and originally introduced by Mr. McCLURE, is open, primarily, to the objection that it is a general law framed especially for Philadelphia. It will be, of course, if enacted, applicable to the whole State; but it was drawn exclusively from the Philadelphia standpoint, and is intended to cure Philadelphia complaints. The State, outside of that city, has got along remarkably well under the election laws of 1839 and 1869, and no complaint has been heard of dishonesty in conducting elections under them. Why not, then, extend their operations to Philadelphia, merely accommodating them to the changed qualifications of voters as made by the new Constitution, and adapting them to the other provision of that instrument? The State is content to abide by the routine prescribed in those laws, and does not ask for the creation of any such new system as is provided for in this bill of McCLURE'S.

The people of Pennsylvania have now, from long practice under them, become familiar with the detailed proceedings necessary in elections, prescribed in those acts; and it takes long practice to make men sufficiently familiar with such things to make the machinery move smoothly. In matters, therefore, of such primary significance as elections, and which come so close home to the people as the right of depositories of power, changes in the election laws should be made as seldom as possible, and old forms should not be broken into so long as it can be avoided.

Our Harrisburg correspondent has detailed several strong and pertinent objections to this bill; but we desire, now, to point out, more particularly, an objection which we regard as fatal to it. We refer to the provisions in it about challenging. Section 2 provides as follows:

"If any person whose name is on the regular registry shall be challenged by another *registered* voter as to his right to vote by reason of residence or for any other reason that would disqualify an elector, the person so challenged shall be entitled to vote only by furnishing the testimony under oath of one *registered* voter whose name is on the regular registry to rebut the grounds of challenge and in such cases the name and residence of the voucher shall be entered opposite the name of the voter. Any election officer refusing to respect a challenge made by a qualified elector shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction therefor shall be fined not exceeding five hundred dollars for each offense, or imprisoned not exceeding one year, or both, in the discretion of the court."

Mark the adroit distinction here made. The challenger may be a mere *registered* voter; but the vouchers to be produced by a person challenged must be *qualified* voters. A "registered voter" is one whose name is on the registry, but whose right to vote has not yet been proved; while a "qualified voter" is one whose right to vote has been established by legal proof. Any man, therefore, according to this provision, who can smuggle his name on to the registry of voters, although he may not possess a single one of the qualifications of a voter, may place himself at the polls in the morning of an election day and challenge every voter in his district, and unless each one of the voters so challenged shall be able to prove his right by other "qualified" voters, he shall not vote.

Under such a system, carried out strictly and literally, a challenger might prevent an entire district from voting. He has but to challenge the first voter, and then successively challenge every other voter offered as proof, and so, by challenging every voter, there would be no "qualified elector" left to prove the right of any of the rest. This, we know, is an extreme case; but it is by extreme cases that such schemes are to be tested. Challenging a voter has always been an annoyance and a source of personal bitterness among neighbors; and the idea of enlarging the sphere of its exercise, and opening the door to wholesale quarrels and contentions, is repugnant to every man's sense of honor and propriety. In many of our election districts, a large number of voters, some from necessity and some from neglect, put off voting until the last hour, and in most of them the last hour is the busiest. To give to a challenger the power to obstruct the polls at such a time, by compelling each one to produce a qualified voter as a voucher, would be to cut off the bulk of them from exercising their right of suffrage, and would produce either rioting or the gravest discontent.

The Legislature has no right to create a qualification for voters. The Constitution defines what qualifications a voter shall possess, and the Legislature can neither add to or diminish them. Yet this is just what this bill does. It declares that no man shall vote who shall not be able to prove his right by another qualified voter. We concede that every voter may be required to prove his right to vote; but the Legislature has no power to require that this right shall be proved only by a specific kind of proof. The Constitution does not require it, and the Legislature cannot. That evidence which would be legal and admissible in a trial at law is surely sufficient to prove a man's residence, age, or payment of taxes; and to say that none but a qualified voter shall be permitted to furnish such testimony is to impose a new and unauthorized qualification upon a voter.

The Registry law of 1868 was set aside for this cause and no other, by the Supreme Court. It provided that no man should be registered who had not been at the time of the registry a resident for ten days in his district. This, the Supreme Court held, imposed a qualification unknown to the Constitution, and the law was consequently set aside. The same reasoning applies to McCLURE'S law, and would doubtless procure a similar decision against it.

As Mr. PLAYFORD, of Fayette, said in the Senate debate on this subject, it is easy to conceive of cases in which a registered voter might be unable to prove his right to vote by other qualified voters. Take, for instance, the case of a young man about to vote on age. He is born twenty-one and twenty-two, and is entered on the registry as voting on age. But his father is dead, and as no one but his mother can prove his age, and she is not a qualified voter, his right is not susceptible of proof under this bill.

Take, as another instance, the case of a man challenged on residence, and the only man that can prove his residence is the unnaturalized citizen with whom he boards. This is not an unusual case, and would frequently happen.

In both these cases the proof of age and residence would be legal and credible before any court in any legal trial; and why should it not be in the matter of voting? The election board ought to be the judges of the credibility and qualifications of witnesses, and if a man proves to them that he is a qualified voter, they have no constitutional right to deprive him of his right to vote because he has not been able to establish it by the evidence of another qualified voter.

The act of 1869 requires that, when a man's name is not on the registry list, he shall prove his right to registry by the affidavit of a qualified voter; but this is a different thing to requiring it of a registered voter. The registry under the old Constitution, was decided by the Supreme Court as being *prima facie* evidence of the right to vote, and in the Philadelphia case it was held that a man not on the registry could not vote. In the rest of the State, however, it was provided that if a man offered to vote whose name was not on the registry, he could establish his registry through the affidavit of a qualified voter, and being thus added to the registry on the day of election, his right to vote was then as open to challenge as that of any other voter on the list.

That, however, was under the old Constitution. The new Constitution provides (which the old one did not) that the fact of not being registered shall not deprive a man of the right to vote, and that part of the act of 1869 is, therefore, no longer applicable, nor is the precedent one to be followed.

The act of Mr. McCLURE is an obstructive one. It puts difficulties and troubles in the way of the honest voter, and enables the malicious and the vicious to annoy and provoke those who have been voters for years, without challenge, by providing for unlimited challenging, besides rendering it difficult and impossible in many cases to furnish the proof demanded. No election can be "free" under such a bill as this; and that is an additional constitutional objection to it.

EXPOSITION OF 1876.

Attached as an appendix to the Governor's Message is the "Report of the Commissioners of Pennsylvania to the Vienna Exposition," a document well worth reading and which doubtless has been or will be read by all citizens who take a real, unaffected interest in the progress of their State and nation. It is clearly and forcibly written, and, though it may contain nothing particularly novel to those who have read the multitudinous letters and reports of other visitors to the great Vienna Fair, the report of Messrs. GRAHAM, RUTAN and DAVIS, the representatives of our own Commonwealth, bring the subject home to us with peculiar emphasis in connection with our prospective Philadelphia Exposition of 1876.

When we say that such an Exposition is a vast undertaking, the truth of the assertion seems to everyone so manifest as possibly to excite a smile or a shrug at the trite triviality of the remark. And yet there is good reason to suspect that relatively few of us comprehend or have any adequate conception of the magnitude of the enterprise, or of the enormous labor and wide intelligence which must be industriously and energetically applied, if the project is not destined to prove a *fiasco* more or less discreditable and mortifying to the American people, Not only to Americans, but to Europeans not especially interested and inquisitive beforehand in the getting up of the first World's Fair in London, the first feeling on entering the "wide hall with earth's invention stored," was one of overpowering amazement. As they rambled on, surveying the spectacle, they gazed with ever-increasing admiration at

> "The long spacious miles
> Of every age, and the giant aisles
> Rich in model and design;
> Harvest-tool and hunting-toil,
> Loom and wheel and engin'ry,
> Secrets of the stilling mine,
> Steel and gold and corn and wine,
> Sunny tokens of the lime,
> Polar marvels, and a feast
> Of wonder out of West and East,
> And shapes and hues of Art divine!
> All of beauty, all of use,
> That one fair planet can produce,
> Brought from under every star,
> Blown from over every land,
> And mix'd, as life is mix'd with pain,
> The work of peace with the words of war."

The next great display of the same kind, the Paris Exposition was on all hands admitted to have greatly surpassed the one at London in the variety and interest of its objects and materials as well as in the perfection of its management. And the Exposition last year in Vienna is, with equal unanimity, conceded to have outstripped all its predecessors. It may be that Europeans in general will not expect the American Fair of 1876 to surpass or even equal those which have gone before. It may be that they will, at least many of them, anticipate an American failure. At any rate it is certain that, unless our Exposition shall be something very fine, sustaining a comparison not contemptible with that of Vienna or that of Paris, we shall fall far short of making the impression which we should desire and are fully able to make. Though as already intimated, many foreigners may expect little from us, there are undoubtedly many who will look for much, who will expect us to improve, in some respects, upon our trans-Atlantic models, and to produce an Exhibition which may even deserve to rank above them. They well know that in the European Expositions, we have never done ourselves justice; that, in no department except perhaps that of invention, have we made such a display as was within easy reach of our resources. And Americans need not doubt that, if their rulers and the people generally take a becoming and worthy interest in the enterprise, the strictly home department of the Exposition will be at once amazing and gratifying, both to our visitors and to ourselves. To both, but especially to the former, a distinct and notable factor in the interest of the occasion, will of course be the comparison suggested and presented between the youth of the nation and the rapid growth implied in the exhibit of arts and industry.

It is, we fancy, a mistake into which some have fallen to believe that foreigners will be, to a great extent, disinclined to aid our Fair with contributions. On the contrary, there is good prospect of general and vigorous participation in it. Possibly certain classes, government officials even, might be disposed to discourage participation in what may be represented as a great republican or democratic festival; but little is to be feared from such deterrent influence, even if exerted. The time has gone by, on both sides of the sea, when such petty obstructionists could accomplish much. In Europe, the chief points of inquiry and concern on the part of governments and single persons in reference to the Philadelphia Exhibition, will relate, we suppose, to the character and spirit of its management. Will the articles sent be as sacredly guarded as they would be in London or Vienna? Will jobbery, trickery, and all forms of knavery be excluded from the great competition, and will the awards for merit be distributed under the rule of honor, intelligence, principle and impartiality? These questions satisfactorily answered, foreigners will eagerly embrace an opportunity so favorable to extend the range of their hopes of profit and fame.

At present, the great danger is that in the absence of absolute unity of thought and action resulting from our popular system, the work of preparation may not be carried on with the requisite energy and rapidity. There has been perilous delay already. Agents ordinarily act in the spirit of their constituents, and it is, therefore, to be feared that the hindrances and discouragement caused by the ignorance of some, the stupidity of others, the indifference of others, the demagoguery of others, the envy and jealousy of others, may seriously interfere with the progress and completion of the arrangements extensive and expensive, without which failure is inevitable. Though the thing has gone so far that recession is impossible without dishonor, it is mortifying to hear people caviling at the appropriation of money for such a purpose, or suggesting the necessity of making it cost as little as possible. Literally taken, the suggestion is wise and good, but meant as it generally is meant by those who make it, it would be beyond hazard fatal to the success of the enterprise. Equally out of place is the remark, sometimes heard that there is still time enough, etc. It shows absolute ignorance of what is to be yet done. As our State Commissioners say, Austria began to prepare for its Exposition immediately after the close of the one at Paris, and yet was not ready in time. Others again even at this late day keep asking the question *cui bono?* for what and to whom will it be a good? questions which we have no time now to answer, but which we doubt not will be answered by manifest facts to the satisfaction of every man of sense who shall live to remember the Centenary of 1876. Like the event which that year commemorates, the Exposition will help to bring on the day when

> Each man finds his own in all men's good,
> And all men work in noble brotherhood.

CALEB CUSHING.

We confess to a keen feeling of disappointment in hearing of the designation of this gentleman to the place of Chief Justice. Not because he specially lacks any qualification for that exalted place, but because it is not fit that a man who has been lying around loose for a long period of years, unattached to any healthy organization:—a mere waif and stray upon the public highway—should be permitted to carry off the highest prize in the government.

It is admitted that Mr. CUSHING is an able lawyer, an accomplished linguist, and a man familiar with diplomatic and international questions. But he is not the *only* able lawyer in the country. There are other lawyers as able as he, and every whit as worthy. If there were not, sad would be the pity of it. When it comes to that, that the entire country can produce but one lawyer fit for Chief Justice, we shall be prepared to put crape on our hats and go into permanent mourning over the death and the dearth of national talent. And as to the linguistic and diplomatic part of his qualifications, we fail to perceive how they can come into play upon the Supreme bench. Our court of last resort is not called upon to settle questions either in etymology or diplomacy, and if such questions ever come before it, the eminent lawyers of the country, from whom the President was expected to choose his appointee, all know enough about them to decide wisely and judiciously. They may not know as much about Sanscrit roots as MAX MULLER, nor be as glib in Spanish and French as CALEB CUSHING, but they are all sufficiently well versed in the languages and diplomacy to render unnecessary the choice of a mere expert in those peculiar branches.

Mr. CUSHING is now seventy-four. If he is to be put upon the bench to serve for a few years and then retire upon his judicial pension to make way for some one now in training for the place but not yet ready for the business, the arrangement is not creditable to any of the parties concerned. The place is too high and sacred to be used in that way. The interests of justice require that there should be as few changes as possible in the head of the Supreme Court, and the man chosen should have at least a reasonable prospect of occupying it and holding it before him. This place, above all others, should be preserved from the vile odor which a job of this kind would cast upon it.

The Chief Justiceship is worthy of the ambition of any man, and the lawyers of the country may be justified in looking forward to it as the possible reward of acknowledged eminence in their profession. But this natural ambition will be dashed and this expectation destroyed if a mere hanger-on about Washington is to be preferred before the men who essentially have always been the ornaments of the bench. I will carefully examine in regard to CALEB CUSHING as such. For years and years he has been hanging around the departments, the White House, and Congress, ready to act as attorney for whatever offered, and to use his great and acknowledged talents in any emergency. That he has been of great service to the various departments, in this way, is conceded; but that practice of this kind qualifies him for the chief judicial place in the nation is not so clear. There was a time when Massachusetts owned him as her son; but he is now enrolled as a citizen of Virginia, and while it is certain that the mother of statesmen will not claim him as her offspring, it is just as certain that a man whose local habitation was better assured would better become the occasion.

We feel, in uttering these words of dissent to this appointment, that we are but expressing the prevalent feeling of the bar throughout the country. It is a rude shock, and jars harshly upon the nerves of men who cannot, strive as they will, find in CALEB CUSHING their *beau ideal* of a Chief Justice; and having no other privilege in the premises but that of saying what we please about it, we exercise that privilege to the full.

INFALLIBILITY REBUKED.

Our Republican brethren, the Swiss, have never, we believe, been regarded as models of politeness; having been long noted for a plainness of speech which their refined monarchical neighbors used to resent and scoff at, referring the peculiarity to their form of government. At least so much would seem to be implied in the use of the phrase "a Switzer civilized in the Dutch Republic" as equivalent to a description too opprobrious for polished lips. We are reminded of this ancient trait by the fact that, however inured to plainness of speech, the Swiss find some language in the Pope's recent encyclical letter rather strong for their digestion. In it His Holiness charges the Swiss government with having "violated the public faith," with having done "a shameful and dishonorable thing" in banishing a certain priest from Swiss territory, etc.. Instead of quietly putting up with this and other equally insulting language, as would formerly have been the case, the Swiss government at once resolved to put an end to diplomatic relations between the Confederation and the Holy See. In spite of the overthrow of the temporal power, such relations have heretofore been maintained by the Swiss, partly, as they explain, out of consideration for the sovereign Pontiff and his present position, partly out of respect for the actual representative of the Papacy in Switzerland, and partly in deference to the religious feelings of Swiss Catholics. But in common dignity and self-regard, they cannot permit even the Pope to indulge in such abuse of them, and they therefore have the honor to inform Monsegneur AGNOZZI, the Papal Nuncio, and through him the Holy Father that, from date they can no longer recognize a representative of the Papacy as accredited ambassador to the Confederation. This is a very disagreeable blow, and likely to inspire gloomy feelings in the old Pontiff. If it only led him to send a copy to the President. He has not time to read the tenth part of the sermons he receives, but a copy of the *Infallibility reads the Bible!*" The emphatic manner in which Mr. Nicolay pronounced the words I have italicised was intended, as I inferred, to assure me that Mr. Lincoln was not an irreligious man.

In 1863 I was appointed by the same church court together with Rev. J. A. Crawford, now of Chambersburg, Pa., and brother of General Crawford of Fort Sumter and Pennsylvania Reserve fame, "to explore the field in the East, and, should the way be open, establish a mission among the Freedmen." It was not convenient for Mr. Crawford to accompany me and I had to make the "exploration" alone. On the 15th of June in that year I sought an official audience with the President of President Lincoln in regard to the matter. After I presented the papers bearing on the subject, he said: "Your presence here on such a mission is to me exceedingly gratifying, for it is in which we live. It is a novel feature in the history of our country and Christian Missions, for an ecclesiastical body to appoint a commission to consult the executive of the government and other authorities in regard to the dissemination of the gospel among any people. You need not to do it when you send a missionary to India, or China, or any other place. The government, of course, cannot engage in a work like this. It is not within its province. It is not its legitimate function. But there is no difficulty in your way to prosecute, and to perpetuate this work, except a military difficulty, which we will endeavor to obviate as far as we possibly can, for the object is a most laudable and benevolent one." He then indorsed my papers and instructed the Secretary of War to furnish me with a pass. If he was a mere deist could he have recommended the preaching of the gospel to any people on pronounced it "a most laudable and benevolent" work?

On this occasion I was ushered into the Executive chamber in company with a number of gentlemen from Connecticut, who called merely to pay their respects to the President. As soon as they retired and I had transacted the business with which I had been entrusted, Mr. Lincoln gave orders for no more visitors to be admitted that day. He then invited me to be seated again, as he desired to have a long conversation with me. I complied with his request and took a seat. "Will you excuse me," said he, "If I lay aside the robes of office and stretch myself on this lounge, for I feel exhausted, and the 'hot weather oppresses me?" We then conversed together for nearly an hour on the state of the country, the religious education of the contrabands and the importance of Pittsburgh as a place for manufacturing implements of war. I rose from my seat several times to take my departure, fearing that I was trespassing too much on his time and good nature, but he insisted on my remaining. At length, as if unbosoming something that filled his soul, he gave utterance to the following words: "*After all, my dear sir, there is true consolation to be found only in the Gospel or religion which you preach!*" This did not savor much of infidelity, most certainly.

I turn now to the consideration of what he said to

COMMITTEES AND DELEGATIONS.

On the 27th of January, 1864, a convention of those favorable to the religious amendment of the National Constitution, was held in the late Dr. John T. Pressly's church, Allegheny city. At that convention a committee, consisting of Revs. J. H. McIlvaine, D.D., John T. Pressly, D.D., Prof. J. M. Wilson, D.D., David Cook Page, D.D., Prof. J. R. W. Sloan, A. M. Milligan, and others, was appointed to proceed to Washington and lay its proceedings before the President. The committee, of which I had the honor to be a member, met in Wilkens Hotel parlors, Washington, on the 4th of February, and approved of an address to the President, which had been drawn up by the Rev. Dr. McIlvaine. The next day the committee were introduced to the President in the Executive Mansion and presented the address, which embodied the action of the Allegheny convention. From this address I make a few extracts, which show the opinion entertained by the late pious and godly John T. Pressly, Dr. McIlvaine, Dr. Page, Dr. Milligan and Prof. Sloan, of this city, and others, of the religious character of the late President Lincoln:

"In the late proclamation of His Excellency, the President of the United States, recommending the observation of days of national fasting, humiliation and prayer, as suggested by the Senate, for the purpose of confessing our national sins, which have provoked the Divine displeasure, and of imploring forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and also days of National thanksgiving for the purpose of making grateful acknowledgements of God's mercies, we have a pleasing evidence that God is graciously inclining the hearts of those in authority over us, to recognize His hand in national affairs, and to cherish a sense of our dependence as a nation upon Him. * * *

"We, the people of the United States, thumbly acknowledging Almighty God as the source of all authority and power in civil government, look to Jesus Christ as the only Governor among the nations, and His revealed will as the supreme law of the land, in order to constitute a Christian government, and in order to form,"

"We are encouraged, Mr. President, to hope that you will give the great object for which we pray your cordial and powerful support, because the memorialists already shown by many, he may sometimes, in his earlier years, have said things that were not in accordance with the most orthodox dogmas of Christian faith, but I have never seen them, and if they were ever published his traducers are chary and to give them to the public. But at any time he did give utterance to opinions at variance with Evangelical creeds, he did no more than the majority of clergymen who are now occupying orthodox pulpits have done long since, in sorrow and disgust, consigned their sophomoric theological essays to the flames.

YOUTHFUL RELIGIOUS IMPRESSIONS.

President Lincoln did not enjoy the best facilities for acquiring a liberal education in his youth, but he had a most favorable opportunity for receiving religious impressions. His father was a pious and devoted Christian woman, and it was the predominant desire of her heart that Abraham should learn to read the Bible. During her lifetime she carefully superintended his education and thoroughly imbued his mind with sound religious principles. She died when the future President was only ten years of age, but, "before I die," says the late Henry J. Raymond, who was intimately acquainted with the history of Mr. Lincoln and knew much of his private life, "he had the satisfaction of seeing that which that Book *which he has never since neglected.*" That Christian mother had full faith in the injunction and declaration of the Divine word, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it," and unless Abraham Lincoln was the veriest and most consummate hypocrite that ever trod the footstool of the Maker, he was true to a faith which even his enemies have not the hardihood to aver) this proverb of Solomon had an abundant exemplification in his life, as I shall show in the sequel of this article.

In proof of the fact that Mr. Lincoln received religious impressions in his youth, I may mention the circumstances that, nine months before his death, he wrote a letter to a traveling preacher earnestly requesting him to come and preach a funeral sermon over her mortal remains. It was not until a year after her death that this request was complied with. The circumstance shows that young Lincoln had a profound respect for the memory of his Christian mother and the rites of Christian sepulture.

I am convinced that the late President Lincoln was not an infidel, but a believer in the divinity of the religion of the New Testament, from

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which I had with him. On the 21st day of May, 1862, I was appointed chairman of a committee, by the Supreme Judicatory of the church with which I was connected, to present a paper to the President of the United States, "On the State of the Country." On the 26th day of June, in company with the Rev. John Franklin Hill, now or lately of McMinnville, Tennessee, Hons. J. K. Moorhead and Robert McKnight, I visited the Executive Mansion and presented the paper to Mr. Lincoln. The document set forth that "the calamities of the present civil war were a punishment for our sins, and especially for our sin of human oppression, no less than were the judgments inflicted upon Egypt for the sin of holding Israel in bondage and refusing to let the people go to serve the Lord; that as success depends on divine agency, we should call upon the Lord in our trouble, and ask Him to overrule the present war, undertaken in the sacred and perpetuate slavery, as to effect its final and complete overthrow."

The President listened attentively, and apparently with great interest to the reading of the paper, and after expressing the happiness he had in meeting the committee and his general concurrence in the opinions contained in the document, he said as follows:

"I shall not make a long speech in response. I think I may say and assure you, that on the *moral* question of slavery there is no difference between us. But slavery is dead; the question is not, shall we accept of it? If that were the question it could be easily and speedily settled. We could make short work of it. But as it is here, we must do the best we can under the circumstances. I have sometimes in my speeches illustrated it thus: If a man had a wen as large nearly as his head, which was sometimes the case, the physician would hesitate to cut it off, lest he might bleed to death. Now, the question was, whether, at the present crisis, it would be for the good of the nation to apply the knife at once. However, gentlemen, as I believe there cannot be any difference of opinion between the Deity which you represent and myself on the moral question of slavery, and its political bearing on the institutions of any country, I shall, in the conscientious discharge of my duty to my country and my God, *to whom we all owe allegiance*, endeavor to make the best of it, *so help me God.*"

When the formalities of the occasion were concluded, Mr. LOWRIE, Mr. Hill, the only lay member of the committee appointed by the church, and myself, engaged in a free and familiar conversation, in the course of which the President made the impression on our minds that he was anything but an infidel. Nothing, he said, made him more happy, or inspired him with greater courage, than to receive such kindly expressions and opinions from religious bodies of the land and their representatives, as those which we had read and uttered. He took us by the hand, and gave us the conviction that he was a believer in the Christian religion.

I may add in this connection, that Messrs. Moorhead and McKnight having engagements at the Capitol could not remain with us until Mr. Lincoln returned from the War Office, but left us in charge of J. G. Nicolay, Esq., his private secretary. While sitting in Mr. Nicolay's office I cast my eye on a table on which lay a large number of documents which had been received by mail but had never been opened. I said to Mr. Nicolay, there is a sermon, written by one of the most talented ministers in the country, in which President Lincoln is declared to be the man for the hour, and it has been published and circulated; it must have lain their for a month or more. Mr. Nicolay replied, it would consume the whole of Mr. Lincoln's time to read all the sermons he receives. Every time a minister or a sermon feels himself under obligation to send a copy to the President. He has not time to read the tenth part of the sermons he receives, but, I am sure, he *feeds the Bible!*"

I am convinced that the late President Lincoln was not an infidel, but a believer in the divine authority of the Holy Scriptures and the Christian religion. I never did subscribe to the maxim: "*De mortuis nil nisi bonum,*" but I heartily endorse the principle, "*De mortuis nil nisi verum.*" The memories of dead men should never be adorned with virtues of which they were entirely destitute and never exemplified while living. Some are beacons to be avoided, others are moral lighthouses to guide us in our perilous journey through the world. As stars shine brightest in the darkest nights, so men's virtues and good qualities appear more conspicuously when contemplated amid the solemnities of death. But, whilst charity prompts us to speak sparingly of dead men's faults, justice requires that we should tell the truth. Much, then, as I revere the memory of the great emancipator of the bondmen, I would not conceal his shortcomings nor varnish his derelictions. But I would be recreant to my duty if, when I knew them to be untrue, I should allow the slanders which have been put in circulation with regard to his infidelity to pass unnoticed and unrefuted. If Abraham Lincoln was not a believer, I am persuaded there are no believers to be found anywhere. The whole tenor of his life, from his boyhood till his death, demonstrates the truthfulness of my assertion. Like most young men, he may sometimes, in his earlier years, have said things that were not in accordance with the most orthodox dogmas of Christian faith, but I have never seen them, and if they were ever published his traducers are chary and to give them to the public. But if at any time he did give utterance to opinions at variance with Evangelical creeds, he did no more than the majority of clergymen who are now occupying orthodox pulpits have done long since, in sorrow and disgust, consigned their sophomoric theological essays to the flames.

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